SC gives Ombudsman

five other regions



Bombay picks up pieces after bembings kill 190

BOMBAY, INDIA-INDIAN INVESTIGATORS ON Wednesday combed through the twisted and torn wreckage of train cars ripped apart a day earlier by well-coordinated bombings that killed 190 people and wounded hundreds during the city's evening rush hour.

The eight bombs fore through packed trains. stunning the bustling port city of Bombay (Mumbal) that embodies India's global ambitions and



Thursday, July 13, 2006

4 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 215

website: www.inq7.met

LONDON-THE TINY South Pacific Ocean archipelago of Vanuatu is the happiest country

on Earth, according to a study that measures quality of life against environmental impact.

Among 178 nations,



US jails GMA point man

Ex-Agri Undersecretary Bolante's extradition urged fertilizer money for the farmers went,

KEY TO PI-B FERTILIZER SCAM: In a California jail for the past six days, Bolante has to pay ball of \$100,000 for his temporary

By TJ Burgonio and Nikko Dizon

CALLS FOR EXTRADITION WERE AIRED YESTERDAY AS news broke that the former agriculture undersecretary embroiled in the P728-million fertilizer fund scam had been arrested on visa matters in the United States.

called on the government to seek the chamber for months and whom it subextradition of Jocelyn Jocjoc" Bolante, sequently ordered arrested last year.

Senate President Franklin Drilon who had defied summonses from the

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., who was en route to the Philippines from Spain when reached by the Inquinca, offered a similar view: "[Bolante] probably violated US laws. No matter, we need him here to put a closure to the fertilizer scam."

"Good development," Pimentel added in a text message, referring to Bolante's arrest. "It gives him a chance to clarify where the over P1 billion in

and who benefited from it."

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., chair of the Senate committee that looked into the fund scam, also said the government should seek Bolante's extradition so he could face investigation before the Ombudsman.

"But I don't know if [it has] the will," Magsaysay said in a phone interview. US JAILS/ A6

OPLAN TRIDENT

'Magdalo plotted special operation vs 20 Arroyo allies'

Senga's defense lost in translation

By Christine O. Avendaño

"NOBODY CAN HAWAK ME." Which does not translate to the outgoing Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga as "untouchable" but to "no one has a hold on me."

Thus did Senga defend himself after a military panel probing the Feb. 24 coup attempt alleged that he waited two hours before calling an emergency meeting of the service commanders after learning about the plot.

The military report does not say if Senga immediately alerted Ms Arroyo to the planned withdrawal of support of the Scout Rangers, Marines and the Special Action Forces on Feb. 24.

Senga, who was the guest of honor at the turnover of command of Col. Romeo Prestoza as the SENGA'S/ A3

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Luigi A. del Puerto

allegedly the latest plot by rebel soldiers to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo was supposed to target 20 allies of the President.

tional Police spokespersons yesterday said the plot, named after a three-pronged spear associated with the Greek god of the sea, Poments seized following the cap-ATTOYO.

A document released to reporters said one of the objectives of the operation was to embarrass Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jz., the Army chief and incoming chief of staff of the Armed Porces of the Philippines, among other well-known personalities in the Arroyo administration.

May 2004 presidential election. MAGDALO/ A4

"OPERATION PLAN TRIDENT,"

The Army and Philippine Naseidon, was exposed in docuture on July 7 of six renegade soldiers in a safe house near the Batasang Pambansa complex that they were supposed to storm and where they would seize lawmakers as hostages in a bid to oust Ms

Esperon, who had served as chief of the Presidential Security Group, was one of four generals implicated in the "Hello Garcl" wiretaps that the opposition said were evidence Ms Arroyo stole the

STORM-TOSSED LIFE warmth and shelter with her children Jon Louie, 3, and Nano, 1, and their pet Florita's fury drives the nome EDWIN BACASMAS cat and dog baside a wall near the Manila Yacht Club on Roccas Boulevard.

Vidal, 2 bishops spurned Pagcor cash

By Christian V. Esguerra

LEADERS OF THE INFLUENTIAL Roman Catholic hierarchy in the Philippines are no strangers to the Arrayo administration's generosity, if documents from the state-run Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) are

any indication.

In September 2005, Ricardo Cardinal Vidal and Archbishops Angel Lagdameo and Paciano Aniceto were each offered cash donations of between P300,000 and P500,000. All three refused the "financial assistance," according to copies of the docu-

ments obtained by the Inquinte from a Pagcor insider who asked not to be named for security rea-

Stamped on each check youcher was the word "cancelled," meaning, the insider explained, the amounts did not reach the intended recipients.

The cash donations were many times higher than the amount contained in envelopes that supposed messengers of Malacafiang tried to distribute to members of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines during their plenary assembly in Manila last weekend.



HAIL TO THE CHIEFS: The Commander in Chief looks up to the incoming AFP Chief of Staff Gan. Hermogenes Esperon who replaces Gen. Generoso Senga (left) on July 21.

"I can only surmise that the framen of Constitution know that in the choice of Cabinet members, the Armed Forces and the police, the President [has] the

Loyalty has a very high premi-

sole prerogative to choose because that it is absolutely critical," Ermita said,

'As in the military, the commander alone is responsible for the accomplishment of her objecrives so she has to choose people who could help her," he said.

Upon his appointment as Army chief last year, Esperon had already been touted to be the most likely successor of APP Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga because of the instrumental role he played in the President's victory In the 2004 elections as claimed by opposition who cited the "Hello Garci" tape as basis.

Esperon, who previously headed Ms Arroyo's Presidential Securiry Group, was mendoned by former Election Commissioner Virglio Garcillano in his wireinpped conversation with the President.

Lapus is one of Ms Arroyo's staunchest defenders in the House of Representatives, Ermita has openly credited Lapus for "nurturing" the passage of the fiscal reform package in the House

"The President is looking at their track record ... she did not think twice in recruiting them," Ermita said.

He denied that the President made loyalty her most desired virtue among her men in renction to the sudden resignation of her most trusted Cabinet secretaries and government executives-collectively

known as the Hyatt 10-on July 8, 2005. Their move heightened calls

for Ms Arroyo's resignation. "We hardly consider them as a

BSPERON/ A4

WEATHER FORECAST

FERECAST: Northern Luzon will expenses rales with guely winds and the coastal waters along these areas will be moderate to rough. The rest of Euzon and Western Visayas will experience monsoon rains. The rest of the country will have partly aboutly to cloudy sides with isolated rainshowers or libunderstorms. FLED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI NESEARCH/07/12/05

Cloudy with Rates Dog. Sustan

New SC deadline for Ombudsman

By Armand N. Nocum and Neison F. Flores

THE SUPREME COURT WANTS the Office of the Ombudsman to finally determine in 45 days whether there is a strong ground to pursue the impeachment and graft charges against officials of the Commissions on Elections involved in the anomalous P1.3billion poll automation deal.

In a four-page resolution, the high tribunal gave the Office of the Ombudsman a "non-extendible period of 45 days from June 30, 2006 or until Aug. 14, 2006, within which to comply fully with the May 3, 2006 resolution of the court."

Last May 3, the high court ordered the Ombudsman to make "its final determination whether probable cause exists against any of the public officials involved" in the Mega-Pacific computerization deal by June 30.

The SC voided the poll automation deal in January 2004, saying the Comelec had disregarded the law and its bidding procedures when it awarded the project to Mega Pacific.

Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez beat the June 30 deadline but singled out Comelec Commissioner Resurrection Borra as being liable for allowing Mega Pacific to take part in the bidding for the project.

Gutierrez also ordered the dismissal of five middle-level Comelec officials and members of the poll body's bids and awards committee which authorized the purchase of the automated counting machines from Mega Pacific.

But the Ombudsman was silent on Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos and retired Commissioners Luzviminda Tancangco, Rufino Javier, Ralph Lantion and Mehol Sadain and current Commissioner Florencio Tuason Jr. who approved the contract on April 15, 2003.

In its July 11 resolution, the high court said the Ombudsman only "partially complied" with the court's order.

The Ombudsman, bowever, said that since Gutierrez only assumed her post last Dec. 1, she needed more time to make a "complete" determination of the existence of non-existence of probable cause."

Starting Riday, the Ombodsmart will starf a weekly public hearing on the concroversial poll contract.

The hearing will start at 10 a.m. at the CCB Conference Room of the Office of the Ombudsman. Members of the media will be invited to witness the With a report from Jerome Aning





SOLDIERS CRY, TOO

Parting brings tears to the eyes of Brig. Gen. Delfin Bangit as he bids goodbye to his men at the emotional turnover of command of the Presidential Security Group at the PSG compound in Malacanang. He has been assigned as assistant division commander of the Army's 2nd Infantry Division in Camp Capinpin, Tanay, Rizal. His replacement as PSG chief is Air Force Col. Romeo Prestoza

Panel sought impeachment of Abalos et al

By Norman Bordadora

A PANEL THAT PROBED THE LIABILIty of Commission on Elections officials in the anomalous PL3 billion poll automation deal had recommended in 2005 the impeachment of Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos and all Comelec commissioners, except Commissioner Rufino Javier.

The four-man panel, formed by then Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo in 2004 and headed by Director Joaquin Salazar, submitted its findings to then Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon Victor Fernandez for approval on June 23,

"With regard to the liability of the Comelec chairman and commissioners, this Office finds that probable cause exists for charging them with a violation of Section 3 (e) (of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act)," read a copy of

the panel resolution left unsigned since it was submitted in 2005.

A copy of the document was furnished the Incomes by former Senate President Jovito Salonga in the wake of the June 30 resolution signed by Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez that recommended the impeachment of Commissioner Resureccion Borra and other Cornelec officials.

A spokesperson for the Office of the Ombudsman said that Abalos and the other Comelec commissioners are "still the subject of further investigation."

Salonga's Kilosbayan organization was among those that filed corruption and plunder charges against the Comelec officials after the Supreme Court voided the poll automation deal with Mega Pacific consortium in January

None of the panel's members signed the Gutierrex resolution which was no probable cause to find the commis-

meant to bear the June 30 deadline set by the Supreme Gourt for the Ombudsman to resolve the case.

"This shows there is an internal strife inside the Office of the Ombudsman," Salonga said, quoting his sources.

The Salazar panel excluded Javier because "(he) appears to have not participated in the award of the project as he was then on official business trip."

Borra was the commissioner-incharge that approved the award of the Comelec's purchase of automated counting machines to Mega Pacific, thus, his being recommended for im-

peachment by the Gutierrez resolution. The panel also noted the failure of MPC's automated counting machines to meet the 99,9995 percent accuracy rating as mandated by the automation

The Salazar panel, however, found

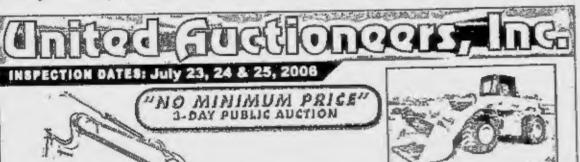
sioners liable for plunder since there was no evidence that they amassed wealth worth P50 million or more from the deal.

While it found the Comelec chair and the commissioners, except Javier, liable for corrupt practices, the panel said it could not recommend "outright prosecution in judicial courts" against the election commissioners.

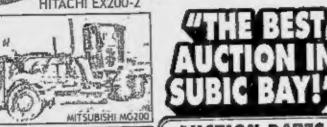
The panel also recommended graft raps against former Comelec commissioners Luzviminda Tancangco and Ralph Lantion who were also involved in the Mega Pacific deal.

Marcelo had inhibited himself from the Ombudsman's deliberations on the failed Cornelec deal with Mega Pacific and had assigned Pernandez to oversee the process.

But until Gutierrez's appointment, Fernandez had failed to sign the document, according to Salonga quoting sources at the Ombudsman.



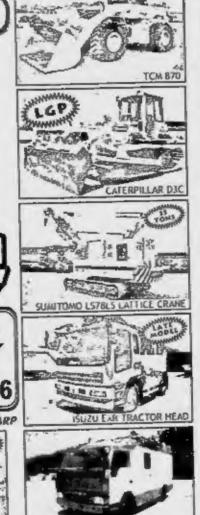












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SC rejects Romualdez bid to regain 2 Equitable posts of directors," the resolution said. By Armand N. Nocum

THE SUPREME COURT HAS REJECTED THE bid of lawyer Perdinand Martin Romualdez, a son of Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez, to be returned to his positions as vice chair of the Equitable PCIB Bank (EPCIB) and chair of the bank's trust committee.

In an en banc resolution dated July 11 and released yesterday, the high court said Romualdez, who represents the familyowned Trans Middle East Equities' (TMEE) shareholdings in the bank, had misinterpreted the SC's earlier June 9 ruling upholding the TMEE's right to a seat in the

Romualdez filed a motion on June 21 asking the SC to direct the EPCIB board to make "full compliance" of its June 9 ruling by installing him to his previous post and restoring all his rights and privileges as vice chair.

In a ruling signed by Clerk of Court Ma. Luisa Villarama, the high court clarified that its June 9 decision merely ordered the EPCIB board of directors "to recognize the nominee or representative of TMEE" as a member of the board of directors "with all the rights and privileges appertaining to the position."

Board seat, nothing more

According to the court, the word "position" referred to membership in the board of directors and not, as claimed by Romualdez, to his right to the vice-chairmanship of the bank.

TMER proceeds from erroneous premises. All the Court mandated was that Romusidez (as TMEE's nominee) be recognized as a member of the board of directors and nothing more," the SC said.

The court explained that under Section 25 of the Corporation Code, It is the directors of the corporation who elect corporate officers who, excepting the president, generally need not even be directors themselves.

"While TMEE may have been put in a disadvantage since its representative was not able participate in the election of Equitable-PCI Bank's officers, it certainly would not follow that such representative had a right to election as an officer since the discretion to elect corporate officers belongs solely to the board

The high court also argued similarly in denying the TMEE petition to restore Romualdez to his former committee member-

The SC said the EPCIB board of directors had the sole discretion to organize the committees of the corporation.

The issue stems from a June 9 resolution of the SC nullifying the May 22 resolution of the Sandiganbayan disqualifying the Romualdez family from voting the TMEE's shares in the bank at the annual stockholders meeting

scheduled for May 23. Voting 13 to all, the high court ordered the EPCIB to admit and recognize the TMEE nomince to the board in place of the person who was elected board director during the May 23

TMEE owns 51,827,640, or 7.13 percent, of the outstanding capital of the EPCIB, the result of the controversial 1999 acquisition by the then Equitable Bank of the much bigger PCIBank owned by the Lopez family and John Gokongwei.

Contested shares

The TMEE ownership of the shares is being contested by the Lopez family which claims that the PCI Bank shares were part of of a bigger hoard of Lopez assets that Kokoy Romualdez seized from the family during the martial law regime of the late dictator Perdinand Marcos. Rokoy Romualdez is the brother of the dictator's widow, Imelda.

After the 1986 people power revolution, the Presidential Commission on Good Government sequestered the TMEE shares in the then PCI Bank. They are included in the assers that the PCGG is seeking to recover from Kokoy Romualdez et al in Civil Case No. 0035 filed with the Sandiganbayan. The Lopez family filed a motion to intervene in the civil case, claiming to be the rightful owner of the

While the ownership issue remained unresolved, the Sandiganbayan allowed the Romualdez family to vote the shares. It directed however that the shares, dividends and earnings be deposited in escrow for whoever would eventually be adjudged the rightful OWNEL

Bombay blasts 'evil personified'-GMA

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo yesterday condemned the bomb attacks in India's financial center of Bombay as "evil person-

"This atrocky is beyond words; it is evil personified and we join the world in denouncing its perpetrators," Mis Arroyo said in a statement.

"The Pilipino people join the global community in strongly condemning the series of bombings that left hundreds of commuters dead (or wounded) in Bomboy," she said.

Ms Arroyo also offered ber condolences to the families of the victims as well as to the Indian government for the "abrupt, vioent and needless loss of lives."

The Department of Foreign Affairs said no Pilipino had been reported killed or wounded in the

'Take care of the President'

By Christine O. Avendaño

OUTGOING ARMED FORCES chief of staff Gen. Genoroso Senga yesterday instructed newly-appointed Presidential Security Group chief Col. Romeo Prestoza to "buckle up and work" in securing Presi-

dent Macapagal Arroyo.
"Remember what I said to you...Take care of the President," Senga told Prestoza in a speech during the turnover rites of the PSG command from Brig. Gen. Delfin Bangir to Prestoza at the PSG headquar-

ters at Malacafiang Park.

Senga also thanked Bangit for being able to lead the PSG during his watch, including countering with "deliberate ef-fectiveness all the attempts to overthrow our duly-constituted government, especially in securing Malacahang in several critical occasions.

am proud to mention that aside from being the primary protector of our Commander in chief, the PSG has commendably served as the representative of the APP throughout the country," he also said.

Senga's defense

new chief of the Presidential Security Group, said that he was very much in control and not under the control of anyone during those tumultuous hours.

Senga told reporters, in response to allegations by military ¿ junior officers that the AFP chief of staff had initially joined them in their plan to withdraw support from President Arroyo.

" 'Very professional'

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz, who attended the weekly news briefing of Executive Secretary Ed-.. uardo Ermita, vouched for Senga's integrity, saying the latter was an , officer that is "very professional, very competent, exercises strong. political will, has a very firm backbone, straightforward, and he is an effective and efficient leader."

"I have knowledge he had responded with the right measures and in a quick enough sufficient time to respond appropriately to the situation as a professional soldier and in accordance and in defense of the Constitution," Cruz said.

No wavering

Asked how soon Senge reported the plot against Ms Arroyo to authorities, Cruz said: "(Senga) called

major service manders right away and reported to higher authorities what was happening right away."

Cruz said he has not seen the report yet on the military's 1 investigation of the Feb. 23-24 incident.

New post for Senga

Cruz said that he would personally lobby that Senga get a senior government post after his retirement.

"I think it would be a waste if we do not make use of General Senga's long experience in the service and his competence which I believe the government can use in a positive and helpful way," said Cruz in a briefing.

'I'm still thinking where his talent and , experience will be put to good use. I think he's going on a little vacation after stepping down (on July 21) and , this will give us more time to decide where he should be appoint-

ed," Cruz said. Senga also told re-, porters: "At that time, I was in control, I was making my own decisions, and all the things that the Armed Forces dld on that night and the following morning, all the actions that were undertaken by the command, the Philippine Army, Navy, Air Force, they were all doing it under my instructions."

Aside from Cruz.

Palace officials led by Ermita rallied behind Senga, saying that Malacaftang had never doubted the loyalty of the AFP chief of staff to Presi-

dent Arroyo during that time. Ermita said he saw Senga yesterday morning and that the lat-ter had merely "laughed off" the INQUIRER report alleging that he had initially sided with the junior military officers.

"It's not true," Ermits said, "Be-tween what has been reported by other officers to whoever wrote that story and General Senga, I would believe the chief of staff."

Nothing can give any doubt that General Senga, the chief of staff, had been loyal to the President, to the government and he did his job as chief of staff during that moment," he said.

During his weekly news briefing, Ermita also pointed out that what Senga did during that time was the complete opposite of the allegations being hurled against him.

"He did his part as chief of staff, and the things that happen and the result of his actions speak for themselves, so there's no reason for us to doubt the word and action of General Senga," the executive secretary said.

The military fact-finding team reported that it took Senga two hours before calling a conference with the service commanders





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'Magdalo plotted special operation vs 20 Arroyo allies'

The four generals were cleared in March by a fact-finding board Deaded by Vice Adm. Mateo widespread clamor, the military has refused to release the board's findings.

It was unclear if "Opian Trident" alluded to the Mayuga investigation. The current restiveness in the Armed Forces has been triggered by the crisis of legitimacy hanging over Ms Arroyo although she has vehemently denied any wrongdoing.

The document seized from the six rebel soldiers belonging to the Magdalo group that staged the aborted "Oakwood" mutiny in 2003 listed the names of 20 public officials and individuals known to be Arroyo al-

Special targets

The 20 Arroyo allies are supposed to be "targets of special operations" to "embarrass" them along with the main plan of taking hostage lawmakers at the House of Representatives building, according to the peper. It did not say how the rebels wanted to embarrass these personalities.

The "Oplan Trident" list is topped by former AFP Chief of Staff and now Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes, followed by Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor, Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, and then Esperon.

Also named were Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales, presidential aide Ricardo Saludo, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. chair Ephraim Genuino, Presidential Legislative Liaison Officer Gabriel Claudio, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, retired Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia. Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay, Davao City Rep. Prospero Nograles, Solicitor General Eduardo Nachura, Armed Forces Northern Luzon Command chief Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino. 7th Infantry Division chief Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Sorsogon Rep. Jose Solis.

Assault on Malacañang

Aside from taking over the Batasan complex, the rebels also were to assault Malacañang and

military and police camps to confuse and delay government counperactions.

Officials could not say when or how such an ambitious plan would be carried out, but histed the hostage-taking might have been planned for July 24, when the President delivers her State of the Nation Address before a joint session of Congress at the Batasan Complex.

"(Oplan Trident) revealed a plan for direct military action and people's support against the government," Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro said in a joint military-police news conference in Camp

(The) end state of this undertaking is (to) bring down the goverument and pave the way for the establishment of a transitional government," revolutionary Bacarro added.

The officials claimed the rebel officers tried to recruit the same soldiers who took over the swank Oakwood apartment hotel in Makati City during the July 27, 2003, coup attempt and who were released in May last year.

Downolay

Col. Tristan Kison said the recruitment effort failed.

Military leaders have said they had accounted for all rebel soldiers at large with the arrest of six "Magdalo" junior officers last Priday.

Even as the military and police bared "Oplan Trident," they also immediately downplayed it.

"Though Trident appears to be feasible, the probability of its impiementation is slim considering that no significant forces are stated to be committed," Bacarro

"They don't have the necessary firearms to use and most of the key personalities involved in the planning are already neutral-

"Initially, they have, as part of their wish list, something like 120 personnel joining them. But actually they do not have that force," Bacarro said.

"It's imaginary but on the ground they don't have that number. They specified units in their plan but they don't have the forces," he went on.

Civilian role

During the planned hostagetaking, acrive and retired military officers, religious leaders and civil society groups were to converge at the nearby St. Peter's Parish Church to join troops who would withdraw support from Ms Ar-

royo and install a "transition gov- LL (j.g.) Kiram Sadava.

"(Oplan Trident) was planned by the same group behind Oplan Hackle," said Bacarro, referring to the Magdalo group's supposed assessination plot against the President and Cabinet members in February, Bacarro said.

Military officials asked if ex-Scout Rangers chief Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, who led a move to withdraw military support from Ms Arroyo on Peb. 24, was involved in Oplan Trident.

"There is nothing in the documents which will specifically link him in the crafting of Oplan Trident," said Maj. Gen. Jose Honra-

Bacarro said investigators learned about "Oplan Trident" from documents recovered during the July 7 raid and follow-up operation last Monday.

Arrested officers

Arrested on Friday last week were alleged Oakwood mutineers Army Capt. Nathaniel Rabonza: 1st 14. Patricio Bumidang Jr. and Sonny Sarmiento, who escaped from Port Bonifacio on Jan. 17; 2nd la. Angelbert Gay and Aldrin Baldonado, who went absent without official leave in February; and Navy

Burnidang returned to the safe house with PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group agents on Monday to turn over additional documents and other

Officials would not confirm whether Bumidang had aiready defected to the government.

CIDG-National Capital Region Senior Supt. Asher Dolina said Bumidang's involvement so far is limited to identifying and turning over documents and other items.

Also arrested with the group were defense lawyer Jose Christopher Belmonte Michael Yangson.

Magdalo defense lawyer Roel Palido claimed the explosives and blueprints of the Batasan Complex found in the house were planted by authorities.

Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao Jr. said press statements subsequently found after the July 7 raid also revealed that those behind a series of bombings in Metro Manila and other areas in Central Luzon were linked with the Magdalo group.

A group called Tabak had claimed responsibility for the bombings, which had caused minor damage and no injuries.

Esperon next AFP chief of staff; Lapus new education secretary

factor anymore," Ermita said.

But he was particularly sensitive to criticisms that since July 8, the President had been choosing mostly politicians instead of private sector professionals such as former Pinance Secretary and Hyart 10 leader Cesar Purisima, former head of SGV & Co., to fill up the Cabinet posts vacated by the Hyatt 10.

"Can you imagine a guy like him from the private sector doing what he did?" Ermita said, referring to Purisima. "Isn't that purt of destabilization? Do you consider that as part of his contribu-

tion to governance?"

Tested, qualified

But Ermita was quick to point out that aside from loyalty to the President, the new appointees also have "something between the

"We don't have to lump them up as political or professionals. What is important is do they have the competence to do the job? Do they have the track record? I think all of the President's choices are all tested and qualified," said

Esperon, who attended the turnover of command of the new Presidential Security Group chief

aside comments that he got the top AFP post as a "favor or payback."

They must look at my record and where I have come from and what my record tells about my carees," Esperon told reporters.

He also said he was ready to face the Commission on Appointments, which had deferred confirmation of his promotion to three-star general after senators requested more time to question him on his "fitness" when Congress resumes its seems

"I have always faced squarely

Col. Romeo Prestoza, brushed racked up against me, I will face ten I can, I will lead the charge," whoever will question that I was party to any election fraud," he

Leading the charge

"I was just doing my job in the field and garrison as chief of operations of the AFP during the elections and I am proud of the output of the AFP at that time."

Esperon said he was "honored to be given that mission of leading the Armed Porces in the defeat of the communist terrorists." Ms Arroyo has ordered the military and police to crush the communist insurgency in two years.

"I shall be in the frontline as of-

Esperon also said.

DepEd union critical

Lapus vowed to improve the quality of Philippine education. He said his experience as a professional manager and in crafting the yearly budget would be put to good use in his new job.

"The awesome challenge of restoring the country's past world-class quality of education is a mission of a lifetime," Lapus said in a statement. The very furure rests in the quality of our human resources."

But Domingo Alidon, president

of the DepEd National Employees Union, criticized Lapus' appointment. He said the department should not be used for political

"The DepEd deserves a secretary who specializes in education. This does not augur well for the educational reforms initiated by DepEd Secretary Edilberto de Jesus and could send the wrong signals to DepEd's varied publics, said Alidon.

Fe Hidalgo, DepEd officer in charge, will remain as undersecretary. With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Michael Lim Ubac, Alcuin Papa and TJ Bur-

Vidal, 2 bishops rejected thousands in Pagcor donations

From page Al The envelopes were said to contain from P20,000 to P30,000 in cash, said one bishop who had rejected the dole. He said it "insulted" him and was meant to "bribe" him and his colleagues into "softening" their position on such lutues as the fresh impeachment campaign against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

But the President's ailies in the House said the reported attempt at bribery was "the devil's handi-Work "

flocos Sur Rep. Salacnib Batering said he believed that the "smear drive" was intended to pit Malacañang against the Church.

Moral discretion

Asked to comment on the offer of assistance to Vidal, Lagdameo and Anicero, CBCP spokesperson Msgr. Pedro Quitorio yesterday Islid they should be commended for "exercising their moral discre-

tion." Quitorio said the decision of the three prelates proved their "fidelity" to the CBCP's pastoral statement of Jan. 23, 2005, in which all the bishops pledged to shun donations of money from gambling, whether legal or lile-

"They have come to realize that there may be some political underpinnings involved in certain donations, especially those as big as the one allegedly offered to them," he said.

To avert suspicion that Malacafteng is trying to win favors from the bishops, Pageor should send donations directly poor, Quitorio said.

"[Pageor officials] really don't have to course the money through the bishops because the bishops would send it to the poor, anyway," he said.

The checks supposedly intended for Vidal, Lagdameo and Aniceto in 2005 were offered in the same month that the bequiren ran a report on similar cash gifts for a number of bishops and other members of the clergy in

Pageor documents showed that it had offered "Christmas gifts" ranging from P500,000 to P4 million to certain bishops including Vidal, the archbishop of Cebu; Aniceto of San Pernando, Pampanga; and Davao Archbishop Pernando Capalla, then CBCP president.

Collective policy

Also among the supposed recipients were two other bishops, 45

priests, and 18 religious groups.

The CBCP has made it a collective policy to refrain from soliciting or receiving funds from illegal and legal gambling so as not to promote a culture of gambling, and encourage church personnel and church institutions to refrain from doing the same, even when the objective may be that of belping the poor," the organization said in its January 2005 pastoral statement.

For all that, Pageor could not seem to contain its generosity.

The Pageor papers showed that PS00,000 was to be donated each to Vidal and Aniceto, and P300,000 to Lagdameo. The check numbers were 00105937 (Vidal), 00105939 (Aniceto), and 00105941 (Lagdameo).

Ail three checks, through Land Bank of the Philippines-Manila, were dated Sept. 1, 2005, and bore the name and supposed signature of Pageor chair Efraim Genuino.

A separate sheet, supposedly a copy of a Pageor request for payment, was attached to each of the three check voucher copies. Listed under "particulars" was the item "financial assistance."

Ticklish issue

Pageor board has approved a recommendation, the insider said.

Receiving cash donations, especially from Pageor, has been a ticklish issue among members of the CECP even with its pastoral letter on gambling.

Disagreements have marked the reaching that gambling in itself is amoral, a position explained last year by Capalla.

Bur according to Archbishop Oscar Cruz, a vocal enemy of gambling, money coming even from legal gambling cannot "usher in the virtues of benevolence and charity" even if it goes straight to the poor.

The end does not justify that means—this is elementary morality," said Cruz, a former president of the CBCP "Money from vice cannot be cleansed into a virtuous commodity by simply throwing [it] to the needy, the hungry, the sick."

Citing the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the compendium of teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, the CBCP in 2005 said "games of chance or wagers" were "not in themselves contrary to justice."

They become morally unacceptable when they deprive someone of what is necessary to A check is issued only after the provide for his needs and those of

others. The passion for gambling risks becoming an enslavement,

In bed with Lucifer

According to Zamboanga del Sur Rep. Isidoro Real Jr., the repost that the CBCP members were offered cash during their recent plenary assembly "came from Individuals who begrudge the CBCP for its anti-impeach-

ment stance." Real, vice chair of the committee on good government, said those supposedly amearing the bishops "should stop and get out of bed with Lucifer."

"In the first place, the President is a truly religious person, who will never bribe men of the cloth. Doing so would mean breaking her own faith and religious principles. We appeal to them to stop the smear campaign against the Church and be Godfearing," he said.

Baterina, vice chair of the House committee on justice, said: The President's allies condemn the malicious attack on the CBCP members as the devil's handiwork, which is meant to discredit not only the Palace but also the Church.

He said the bishops had prayed for discernment on the impeach-

ment issue before coming out with their pastoral statement on Monday

But "unable to accept the CBCP's decision, these wicked individuals now want to chastise our good bishops for not toeing their proimpeachment line," he

Speak up

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles called on the bishops to speak up and defend themselves, and challenged "rumormongers" to name names.

You cannot just send money through a messenger. The Palace is not stupid [or] foolish to do that. If the allegations are true, it doesn't mean that the money had come from Malacañang. It could have come from anybody who wants to make it appear that the administration is indeed bribing the bishops, when in fact it is

not," he said. The CBCP pastoral statement issued on Monday said that while it would not endorse the current impeachment process, it would respect the stance of individuals and groups involved in it, and would continue its search for the truth behind the allegations hounding the President. With a report from Michael Lim Ubac

Vanuatu happiest place on Earth; RP ranks 17

From page Al

the Philippines ranked 17th in the Happy Planet Index compiled by the British think tank New

Economics Foundation (NEF). The index combines life satisfaction, life expectancy and envifootprint—the ronmental amount of land required to surtain the population and absorb its energy consumption.

Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica and Panama complete the top five in the Happy Planet Index.

Zimbabwe bottom

"Zimbabwe emerged at the bottom of the heap, below second-worst performer Swaziland, lic of Congo and Ukraine. Seven African countries were at the bottom 10 of the index.

The Happy Planet Index strips the view of the economy back to its absolute basics: What we put in (resources), and what comes out (human lives of different length and happiness)," the NEF said.

Unsmilling G8

The NEP, an independent group that did the index jointly with UK-based green campaign group Priends of the Earth, said the report showed that high levels of resource consumption did not reliably produce high levels of well-being.

The Group of Eight (G8), a fo-

Burundi, the Democratic Repubrum of the heads of leading industrialized nations, will be meeting in St. Petersburg this weekend, but they have not much to smile about. None of them made it to the top 50 of the index.

Italy came out best in 66th place, ahead of Germany (81), Japan (95), Britain (108), Canada (111), France (129), the United States (150) and Russia (172).

Switzerland came ahead among all European nations. The order of nations that

emerges may seem counteristuitive. But this is because policy makers have been led astray by abstract mathematical models of the economy that bear little relation to the real world," said NEF

policy director Andrew Simms. Simms said the index "addresses the relative success or failure of countries in giving their citizens a good life while respecting the envi-

ronanental resource limits on which all our lives depend."

Nic Marks, head of the NEF center for well-being, added; "It is clear that no single nation listed in the Happy Planet Index has got everything right. But the index does reveal patterns that show how we might better achieve long and happy lives for all, whilst living within our envi-

ronmental means." "The challenge is: Can we

learn the lessons and apply them?" Marks said.

Among Asian nations, Vietnam was ranked highest at No. 12, followed by Sri Lanks (15) and the Philippines (17), Indonesia was at No. 23, China (31), Thailand (32), Malaysia (44), Hong Kong (88),

Japan (95) and Singapore (131). Central America was the region with the highest average score, combining good life expectancy of 70 years with an ecological footprint below its globally fair share.

Island nations

Island nations performed particularly well in the rankings.

But Vanuaru, with a population of around 200,000, topped them

all. Vanuatu, part of a vast sprawiing Pacific archipelago, has been described as "the happy isles of Oceania" by author Paul Ther-

"Don't tell too many people, please," said Marke Lowen of Vanuatu Online, the republic's online newspaper.

"People are generally happy here because they are very satisfied with very little," Lowen sald,

"This is not a consumer-driven society. Life here is about community and family and goodwill to other people. It's a place where you don't worry too much. The only things we fear are cyclones or earthquakes." Reports from AFP and Reuters

GMA going to Libya to thank Gadhafi

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO WILL thank Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi in person for his efforts to resolve a decadeslong Muslim separatist insurgency, officials said yesterday.

Ms Arroyo, who leaves for Tripoli on Satur-day, also will discuss the welfare of Filipino workers in Libya and oil supplies for the Philippines, Executive Secretary Eduardo Er-

The President will thank the great leader Gadhaft for the 30 years of partnership for peace in the southern Philippines," Ermita

He said Arroyo, who will return to Manila on Tuesday, was looking to strengthen relations with Libya and also invite more Libyan investments in the Philippines.

Libya hosted talks in 1976 between Manila and the main Musilm rebel group, Moro National Liberation Front, which eventually signed a peace accord in 1996. Libva also brokered talks in 2001 with another rebel group, the Moro Islamic Libera-tion Front, that paved the way for ongoing formal negotiations.

Libya played a key role in winning the re-lease of Western tourists seized by the Muslim extremist group Abu Sayyaf from a Malaysian resort and brought to the south-ern Philippines in 2000. Libya reportedly paid millions of dollars (euros) in ransom for the hostages, but this was not officially confirmed.

THE DAILY GOSPEL



Thursday, July 13, 2006 14th Week in Ordinary Time

Henry Hos 11:1-4, 8-9 1st Reading: Matthew 10:7-15

Jesus said to his disciples, "Go and proclaim this message: The kingdom of heaven is near. Heal the sick, bring the dead back to life, cleanse the lepers, and drive out demons. You received this as a gift, so give it as a gift. Do not carry any gold, silver or copper in your purses. Do not carry a traveler's bag, or an extra shirt, or sandals, or walking-stick: Workers deserve their living.

When you come to a town or a village, look for a worthy person and stay there until you

As you enter the house, wish it peace. If the people in the house deserve it, your peace will be on them; if they do not deserve it, your blessing will come back to you.

And if you are not welcomed and your words are not listened to, leave that house or that town and shake the dust off your feet. I assure you, it will go easier for the people of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than it will for the people of

that town." Commentary

God treats Israel so tenderly, like a child, fostering them, kissing and feeding them. Our God is tender, plrying us, overwhelmed with love for us even though he is also the Holy One among us, the God of justice and judgment. Why can we not see that? And Jesus is that love in flesh and blood, traveling everywhere and sending his disciples out to do his work: heal, bring hope, preach good news to the poor, do justice. And we are told to travel light, go without violence or protection, rely on the goodness of others, share the richness of the Word and accept what is shared with us. And when rejected, leave, but leave the judgment of others to God. It is the way of the missionary/prophet/preacher.

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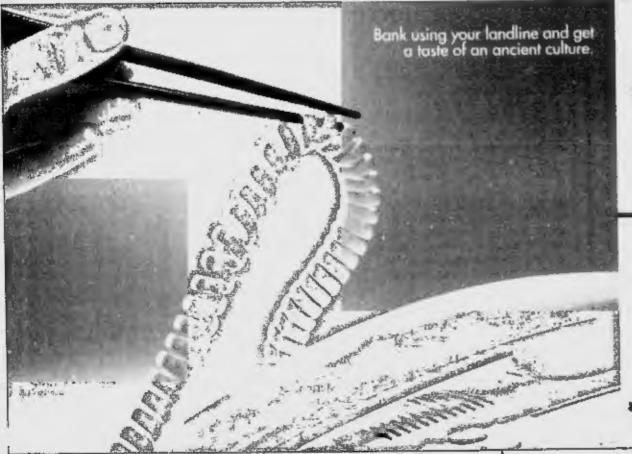
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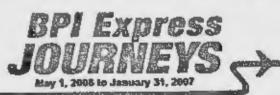
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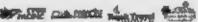
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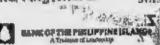
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TIMELINE

March 6, 2004. Presidential candidate Sen. Panfilo Lacson accuses President Macapagal-Arroyo of "virtual vote-buying" by authorizing the release of P728 million to favored officials, supposedly to buy farm inputs like fertilizers and pesticides for their constiruents, as part of the Ginintuang Masaganang Ani (GMA) project.

Lacson questions the timing of the fund release. He adds that some of the districts in the list of recipients do not even have farm-

May 2004. Former Solicitor Gen-

erai Frank Chavez flies a plunder case against the President. He identifies Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn Bolante as one of those who signed the papers involving the release and disposition of the fertilizer fund.

Chavez says the friends of the President's husband, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, at the Department of Agriculture pocketed about P142 million of the amount earmarked for the pro-

June 3, 2004. Bolante, who considers Mike Arroyo "a good friend," says the latter has nothing

Republic of the Philippines

Department of Finance BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE

REVENUE REGULATIONS NO. 9-2006

Subject: Amending Further Certain Provisions of Revenue Regulations (RR) No. 6-2005, as Amended, Implementing the Provisions of Executive Order (EO) No. 399, as Amended by EO No. 422, Otherwise Known as the "No Audit Program (NAP)".

SECTION 1. SCOPE. Pursuant to Section 244 of the National Internal Flavenue Code of 1997 in relation to EO, as amended by EO 422, these Regulations are hereby promulgated to further amend certain provisions of FR.

SECTION 2. DEFINITION OF TERMS. Section 2(d) of RRI No. 8-2005 is hereby assended to read as follows:

SECTION 5. CRITERIA FOR QUALIFICATION. Section 5 or RR No. 5-2005 as arounded, is haveby further

a. Income text payment for the Current Thouble Your stant exceed the income fac payment for the Russ Year by at least 20%;

b. Relio of recorns lex payment to grown sales/receipts for the Current Texable Year roust be at least equal to their

For texpayers serving mixed income (business income and employment income), the computation of the 20% increase in the income tax payment and the rate of income tax payment to cross sales must bessed on the total lax payment and the rate of income tax payment to cross sales must bessed on the total lax payment to cross sales must bessed on the total lax payment to cross sales must bessed on the total lax payment to cross sales must be sale total lax payment to cross sales must be sale total lax payment and to come by the tax payment and the componistion and its corresponding effect on the tax due for the current texable when shall be excluded for current sale to the rate of tax payment.

Taxpayers who paid or are paying the Minimum Corporate income Tax (MCIT) can still avail of the MAP provided that the required increase in the income tax obvinent and the ratio of tax payment to cross salestrecapts shall be based on the MCIT payment in the base year and the MCIT due in the current year. Further, excess MCIT shall not be credited from the successing year's tax due, even if the normal income tax becomes higher than the MCIT. Defended Charges MCIT for the current year must be closed to retained earnings account.

Charges-MCIT for the current year must be closed to relemed earnings account.

Taxpayers enloying the benefit of the preferential tax rates (not subject to the Normet Income. Tax Rate) can still avail of the program provided that the required increase in the income tax beyond and the ratio of income tax payment and the ratio of income tax payment and the preferential tax rate (or the buse year and the current year. The same rute evolutes accounted applying the preferential tax rate (or the buse year and the current year. The same rute evolutes, evon if the taxpayer's current year is no longer entitled to the application of the preferential flax rate.

c. Ratio of net value added tax (VAT) or business tax actually paid to gross selectrocapts for the Current Taxable Year must be at least equal to that of the Base Year, provided, however, that in no case shall it be less than three percent (3%) for those subject to percentage tax, or thirty percent (30%) of the value-added tax rate provided by tax for any given period for those subject to value-added tax, or the industry benchmark as may be determined from time to time by the Commissioner of internal Revenue (Commissioner).

VAT zero-mind transportions and VAT example transactions, and subject to percentage tax, or subject to percentage tax, or subject to percentage tax, or the industry benchmark as may be determined from time to time by the Commissioner of internal Revenue (Commissioner).

VAT zero-nited transactions and VAT exampl transactions, not subject to percentage tax, shell not be considered for purposes of determining compliance with the required VAT or percentage tax ratio. Provided, however, that the pross selectrocepts from the inforeset transactions are included for our passes of qualifying with the requirements of letter (a) and (b) of this section.

shall not be required to comply with letter (c) and shall be deamed qualified for said exemption provided that the requirements of letters (e) and (b) of this section are complied with. Provided, further, that photocopies of the required documents included in the NAP Parkispation Form, (April 2006 Version) shall be presented for validation of their

Rec purposes of determining the lax payments for the Current Texable Year, only taxes actually paid in cash as shown in the Annual Income Tax Return, Quarterly income Tax Return, Quarterly income Tax Return, Quarterly Value-added Tax Return, aborting VAT Declaration and Cuarterly Manchily Percentage Tax Return shall be considered. For this purposes, creditable withholding taxes for the lax year concerned, which are properly supported by a Cartificate of Carolination of Concernation Payment Tax Philinated (BIR Form No. 2307) Cartificate of Carolination Payment Tax Philinated (BIR Form No. 2315), shall be considered as cash payment. On the other hand, TCCs/TDMs, and size credit carried over from prior years are considered non-cash fleins and shall be excluded from determining the lax payments for the Current Taxable Year.

Provided, further, that the growth rate and ratio provided herein shell be edjusted to reflect the effect of the increase/decrease of the lex rate resulting from legislative measures. These providings and ratio shall be determined by the Commissioner for every NAP participation year which shall be released through a Revenue Memorandum Circular to be issued before the deading for floop at NAP Participation Form on a wharty bases.

SECTION 4. TAXPROVERS NOT QUALIFIED FOR THE PROGRAM. Section 6 of RR 5-2005 to hereby sweet.

Taxpoyers who are reponing not loss or have a Not Operating Loss Carry-over <u>without MCIT due shall be</u> discussibled from particlosting in the NAP. This includes lexiconer having not income but having no bix physicis due to their deduction of personal and additional exemptions.

A tax payers must the a chay accomplished NAP Participation Form, together with the tequired attachments, not later than thirty (30) days from the statutory deadline for the filling of the Annual Income Tax Return for the year author of the Participation, or in the case of texpayers whose statutory deadline for the filling of Annual Income Tax Return occurred earlier than the date of the effectivity of these Regulations, their application must be filled eather thirty (30) days from the filling of these filling of the effectivity of these fillings of the filling of the f

However, for lexpenses whose lexable year ends December 31, 2005 and fiscal year ending on January. February, Interest, 2006, the NAP Participation Form must filed together with the recurred attachments, on or before, July 31,

Texpayers who failed to avail and quality for 2004 NAP evaluation can all evail of the Program under these requisitions by completing with the requirements herein provided. Provided, however, that no final Assessment Notice dursuent to a lotter of Authority. Tax Verification Notice or Letter Notice has not been issued for the taxable year 2004. Additional payments, if arts, must be made using BIR Form 05015-101and NAP Participation Form must be filed and tales than July 31, 2008."

SECTION 6. ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION FROM AUDITUNVESTIGATION OR NOTICE OF DISQUALIFICATION. Section 10 of RR No. 6-2005 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Assistant Regional Director

1. Revenue District Officer where texpeyors to registered

2. Cinef, Assessment Division

3. Chief, Legal Division

recount by the texpeyer of the written notification from the RDO or Chief of con-

Chec, LTAID II LTAID II LTDO where implyers in registered Chec, LTGED

The NAP Review Committee shall recommend the issuance of a Certificate of Exemption from Audit Investigation or Notice of Disquatification which shall be signed by the Regional Director for recognit office pasts, or the Assistant Commissioner, Large Texpayers Secace, for large texpayers cases.

SECTION 1. APPEAL. Taxonvers who received a Notice of Chanalification may file an access to the NAP Committee National Office Level within 30 (Thirty) days from receipt thereof. The composition, functions, dulins and responsibilities of NAP Committee National Office Level shall be ordered forgugh a Revenue Science Order to be issued by the Commissioner for that outpose.

BECTION B. EFFECTIVITY. Those Regulations shall take effect transductry after publication in any name

Any unpaid amount found effect review by the NAP Review Committee shall be paid within thirty (30) days from

"SECTION 18. ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION FROM AUDITINVESTIGATION OR NOTICE

The application and the required attachments shall be reviewed by the NAP Review Committee commonst of the

SECTION 5. DEADLINE, Section 9 of RR No. 6-2005, se amended, is hereby further arrunded to reed as

3000

"SECTION 6. TAXPAYERS NOT QUALIFIED FOR THE PROGRAM.

Texasvers having oursiv VAT zero-rated transactions or VAT exempl transactions, not subject to percentage lax

: All Internal Revenue Officials, Employees and Others Concerned.

(d) Taxpayer - refere to any person whether individual or corporation seming business income.

"SECTION & CRITERIA FOR QUALIFICATION UNDER THE PROGRAM For a tempayor to quality for the NAP, he must satisfy all of the following:

to do with the fund controversy.

He admits to signing papers regarding the fund, but claims that he had no hand in the selection of the recipients because the system is "demand-driven."

He says he welcomes a probe, as "this is the opportunity to answer these false accusations." September 2004. Bolante resigns as agriculture undersecretary ostensibly because of his election as Rotary International's director for Asia-Pacific.

He is also named to the Government Service and Insurance System's board of trustees.

June 27, 2006

Oct. 4, 2005. The Senate committee on agriculture chaired by Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. opens its inquiry into the fertilizer fund. Bolante is a no-show.

Oct. 26, 2005. Bolante leaves for Los Angeles hours before the second Senate hearing November 2005, Magazysay

seeks the assistance of the US Embessy and Rotary International in locating Bolante, who is a noshow at the Nov. 17 and Nov. 24

Dec. 5, 2005. Bolante reportedly arrives at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Dec. 11, 2005. Bolante leaves on a Cathay Pacific flight for Hong Kong en route to the United States, four days after the Bureau of Immigration placed him on its

Dec. 13, 2005. The Senate cites Bolante for contempt and orders his arrest

Jan. 17, 2006. In a petition submitted through the Philippine consul in Chicago, Bolante asks the Supreme Court to stop the Senate from implementing the arrest order, saying he is willing to attend the committee hearings.

But he snubs the Jan. 31 and

Feb. 2 hearings.

March 1, 2006. The Senate committee on agriculture and the blue of ribbon committee release a report recommending the filing of criminal and administrative charges against Bolante and other agriculture officials.

The report also says the President should be "held accountable" for the mismanagement of the fund. June 26, 2006. The second impeachment complaint against the President is filed. Her alleged participation in the fertilizer fund scam is included in the charges. Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research

श्रं

US jails GMA point man; extradition sought

He said that embezzlement of funds was an "extraditable offense," and that the govern-

"SECTION 2. DEPINITIONS

of the Base Year;

to rend as follows

"SECTION 8. DEADLINE

(30) days from the effectively thereof.

OF DISQUALIFICATION.

Regional Level

B. Large Taxpayers

ment "should look at that aspect."

News of Bolante's arrest came four months after the Senate committee on agriculture

wrapped up its inquiry into what it called the "premeditated, systematic" agricultural theft and recommended the filing of charges against Bolante and several current and former agriculture officials.

The committee also concluded that President Macapagal-Arroyo should be held accountable for the "mismanagement of the fund."

The fund, allotted for the purchase of farm inputs, was believed to have been diverted and distributed as largesse to administration allies to ensure Ms Arroyo's victory in the May 2004 presidential election.

Bolance is being held at the San Pedro Detention Center in California, Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Gilberto Asuque told a press briefing yesterday.

He was arrested by the US Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) on July 7 and detained because of his cancelled B1-B2 visa, Asuque said, quoting the Philippine Consulare in Los Angeles.

The hearing of Bolante's visa case is scheduled on July 12 (today in Manila), Asuque said.

He said the consulate's legal officer, Noemi Diaz, had spoken with the INS representative and was informed that Bolance was being represented by his own lawyer.

We will know why his business visa was cancelled after the hearing," Asuque said.



Bolante was once considered one of the President's most trusted men, but now Malacañang would not dream of posting bail for him.

We will not raise a finger to do such a thing that you are suggesting," Executive Serretary Eduardo Ermita said when told about Bolante's supposed request for Malacahang's help in posting bail of \$100,000 for his temporary release.

Ermita said the Palace had yet to verify reports that Bolante had indeed been arrested by US immigra-

"If it's true, what is his right to ask for that amount from the government?" Ermita said, adding:

"I don't see under what arrangement we can help him. He is a private citizen. If the government helps him, [people] will say, 'Malacanang helped Bolante, so Malacañang is responsable for hiding Bolante."

At the most, Ermita said, the government would extend to Bolante the same assistance it would give ordinary Filipinos in a similar bind.

"It will just be SOP (standard operating procedure) for the consulate,"



BOLANTE: Palace will not post ball



MAGSAYSAY: Face probe of Ombudaman



ARROYO: Balanta exonerates his 'good friend'

According to Press Secretary Igua-

cio Bunye, the government's role in

Bolance's case is only to make sure

Cabinet does not count, Bunye said.

His being a former colleague in the

The normally cool Ermita was visibly annoyed when asked if Mala-

possible appearance at the Senate in-

reason for Malacañang to be both-

"I don't see why we should be both-

Quoting Consul General William

"He appeared to be travel-

Asuque rold reporters that

ing alone," Asuque told the

inquirer in a phone interview.

the DFA had not cancelled

Bolante's passport, allowing

decision of a country's immi-

gration officials if they would

allow a person to enter their

country or cancel one's visa,"

Asuque also said there was

no information if Bolante's

arrest and detention were re-

Throughout the Senate's

six public hearings spread

over six months, Bolante was

a no-show, often using his

travels abroad as then direc-

tor of Rotary International as

Last year, the miffed sena-

Balante's arrest in the Unit-

"Bad news for him, good

tors cited him for contempt

ed States is "his fate,"

Magsaysey rold the INQUEER.

the senator said, adding:

and ordered his arrest.

lated to the fertilizer scam.

"This is a visa case. It is the

him to travel freely.

he said in Filipino.

'His fate'

excuse.

Gast, Asuque said the INS informed

the consulate by phone of Bolante's

arrest and detention on July 10.

ing in Manila).

quiry on the fertilizer scam.

ered," he said.

From Seoul

that his legal rights are respected.

LACSON: His exposé started it all "We'd like the US authorities to secure his person and his life, given that he has been avoiding testifying at the Senate hearing."

Magsaysay also said that once the US immigration authorities were done with Bolante, the Philippines Bureau of Immigration could send agents to Los Angeles caftang should warry about Bolante's to serve the Senate arrest order on

"They should bring him to the Senered by a Senate probe. There is no ate so he can face us and answer some questions on the scam," Magsaysay said

He said he was not ruling out initiating an inquiry into other government fund releases for the purchase

of farmers' inputs. "But we'd rather that the Ombudsman do something about [Bolante],"

Asuque said Bolante was arrested The senator also said the govern-Asiana Airlines from Seoul on ment should extend assistance to Friday night (Saturday morn-Bolante as a citizen, and not as a public official.

"He should be assured of his safety and handled without physical risk. And that be gets his lawyers," Magsaysay said. "But beyond that, it's up to government officials to handle him. He might be too hot to handle."

Ombudsman Gutierrez

Drilon said Ombudanan Merceditas Gutierrez, whose office is investigating the fertilizer fund scam, should invoke the RP-US Extradition Treaty "to bring back Bolante."

"She is familiar with the treaty because as then state counsel of the Department of Justice, Mercy Gutierrez assisted me in negotiating the treaty." Drilon, who served as justice secretary during the Aquino administration, said in reply to a question from the INDUIRER.

Danilo Ramos, secretary general of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas who testified at the Senate inquiry, also said Bolante "must immediately be extradited to the Philippines to face the charges against him."

"He must be punished for his crimes against the peasants, particularly his involvement in the P728-million fertilizer scam," Ramos said.

Pimentel, however, said Bolante could turn state witness "to save his news for the country and the evil skin and send more guilty perfarmers. This is an issue of acsons to jail." With a report from Gil counting and accountability," C. Cabacungan Jr.

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MARGARITO B. TEVES

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Bombay picks up pieces after railway bombings kill 190

From page Al

presents itself to the world as a crowded and cosmopolitan metropolis where bankers dine with movie stars and fashion models party until dawn.

As Bombay's 16 million people struggled to regain their footing on Wednesday, suspicion for the blasts fell on Kashmiri militants who have in the past carried out near-simultaneous attacks on Indian cities, including bombings last year at three markets in New Delhi that killed 59 people.

Kashmiri militants

The Times of India reported that Indian intelligence officials believed two shadowy groups—the Kashmiri militant group Lashkar-e-Tayyaba and the banned Students Islamic Movement of India-were responsible for the blasts. Both groups were blamed for a series of Bombey bombings in 2003.

But two of the main Islamic militant groups in the Himelayan region-Lashkar-e-Tayyaba and Hezb-ul-Mujahedeen-condemned the bombings in separate statements on Wednesday. Both groups insisted they had nothing to do with the Bombay bombings or a series of grenade attacks in Kashmir that killed eight people earlier the same day.

These dastardly acts were perpetrated by the enemies of humanity . . . Indian security forces blame Lashkar in an attempt to defame Kashmir freedom struggle," a spokesperson for Lashkar said in a statement. Kashmiri militarus usually issue a similarly worded statement whenever they are accused of carrying out attacks against Indian

"We do not believe in killing innocent civilians," the Lashkar spokesperson added.

The Hezb-ul-Mujahedeen militant group also condemned the blasts and said in a statement that "mujahedeen cannot be involved in such heinous crimes,"

Global condemnation

Tuesday's attacks drew condemnation from around the world. (See story in The World, Page

Indian Prime Minister Marsnohan Singh said "terrorists" were behind the bombings, which he called "shocking and cowardly."

With the annual monsoon leaving the bustling Arabian Sea port overcast and damp, police picked through the mangled train cars, placing ev-

idence in blue plastic We see New Zealand's Leading Provider of Immigration Services. bags and shooing away curious onlookers.

"We are just trying to establish what kind of explosives were used and where exactly the bombs were placed but it appears they were kept in the luggage racks," said police inspector Yeshwant Patil, who was helping sift through one wrecked train car.

Patil's assessment matches with initial reports that most of the victims suffered head and chest injuries, presumably from blasts above their hearts.

But even as authorities were still trying to determine the nature of the bombs, the CNN-IBN television news channel cited police scatters as saving that powerful RDX explosives were used and that timers were found at one of the stations

Governments around the world tightened security in cities from New Delhi to New York after the eight blasts, which

struck seven trains within minutes of each other during the early evening rush hour india's cities remained on

Commuter transit systems have been tempting targets for

high alert.

perceptors in percent years, with bombers billing the Bhabha hospital near Bandra. 191 in Madrid in 2004 and 52 in London last

In 1993, bombers hir the Bombay Stock Exchange and other places in the city, killing more than 250 people.

Tuesday's bombings appeared timed to inflict maximum carnage. The first bombing hit a train at Bandra station at 6:20 p.m.

Other blasts followed down the line of the Western Railway at or near stations at Khar, Jogeshwari, Mahim, Mim Road, Matunga and finally Borivili, which was struck by two blasts at 6:35 p.m., according to the Star News channel. Other reports, however, gave different timelines.

On Wednesday, the Press Trust of India quoted police as saying the casualty toll had hit 190 dead and 625 wounded.

Residents overcame their fears and returned to the trains early Wednesday, However, there was none of the usual crush on the trains, which serve some 6 million people a day, making it one of the world's most crowded rail networks.

In many first-class cars-the target of Tuesday's bombings-there were fewer than half the usual 60 to 70 people.

"Our trust in Bombay has been shattered, we had always thought trains were safe, but what

Lit Systom

Therabreath in removement backers that cause

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can we do-in this city. trains are the lifeline, said Brijesh Ojha, 35, who boarded the train at Bandra station. where the first blast ocсипед.

They can't scare us this way," he said.

Worried residents searched through the night for missing friends and relatives. Dozens of people stood in hospitals, carrying pictures of the missing.

"We have gone to hospitals, four would have called by now," sobbed Shakun-Wari who was looking for her 24 year-old son Vikas at

Cop in-yest leaving thins marries
 Fort classes professe seed it light notions
 Inner control of the control of the

Balliameri di Empayment ametarica territori Gayat afizzia liqui ever fili ametirat

She had also visited a morgue. Tim just very scared what happened to him."

Others crowded around hospital notice boards pouring over lists of the dead and wounded posted by police. The Bombay police force on Wednesday listed the names of casualties on its



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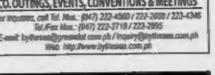
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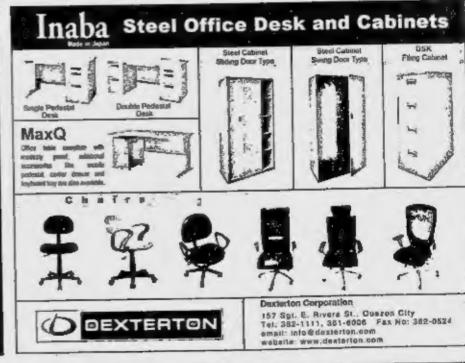
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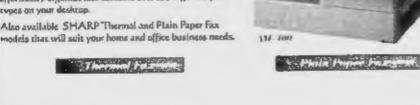
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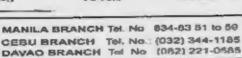
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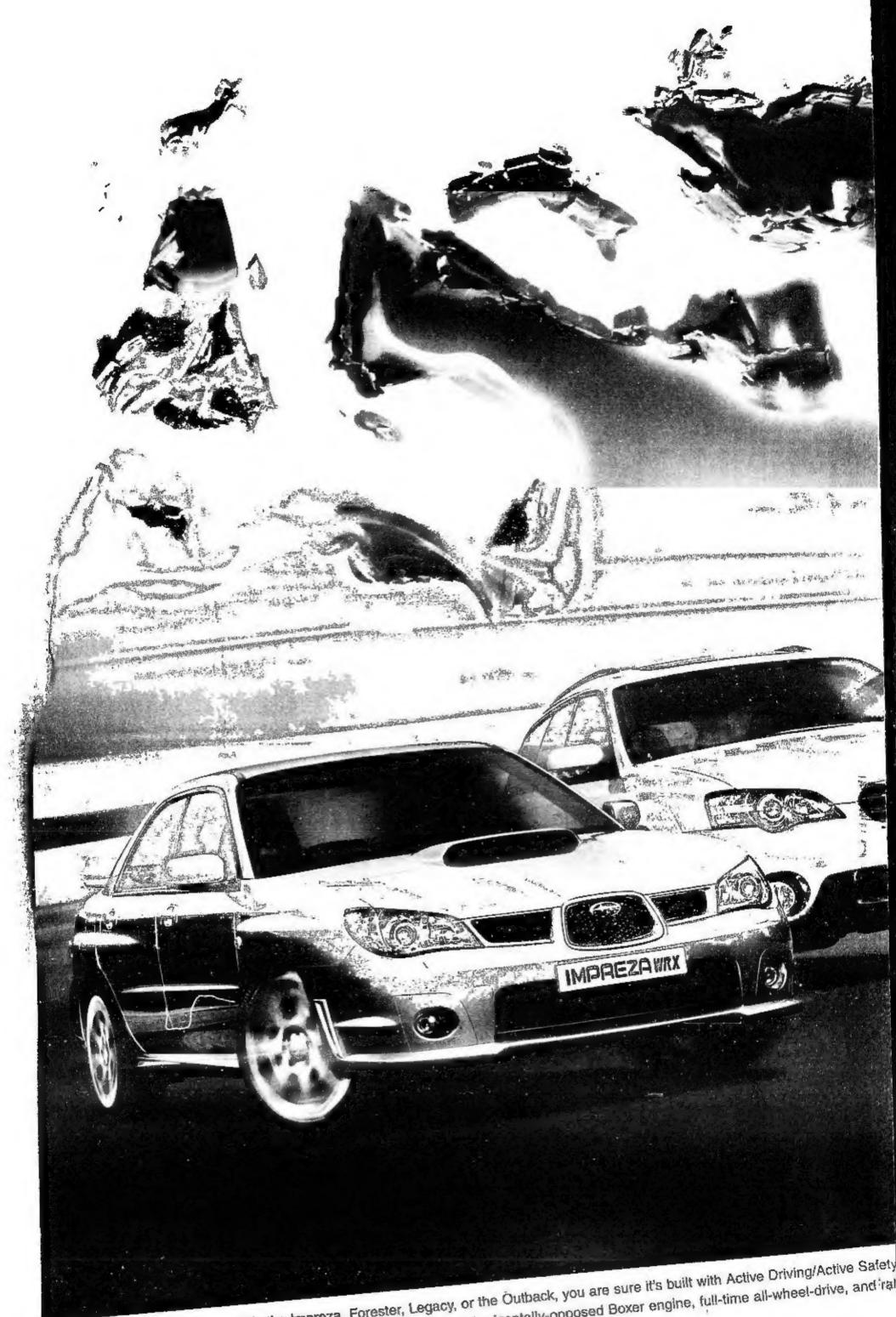
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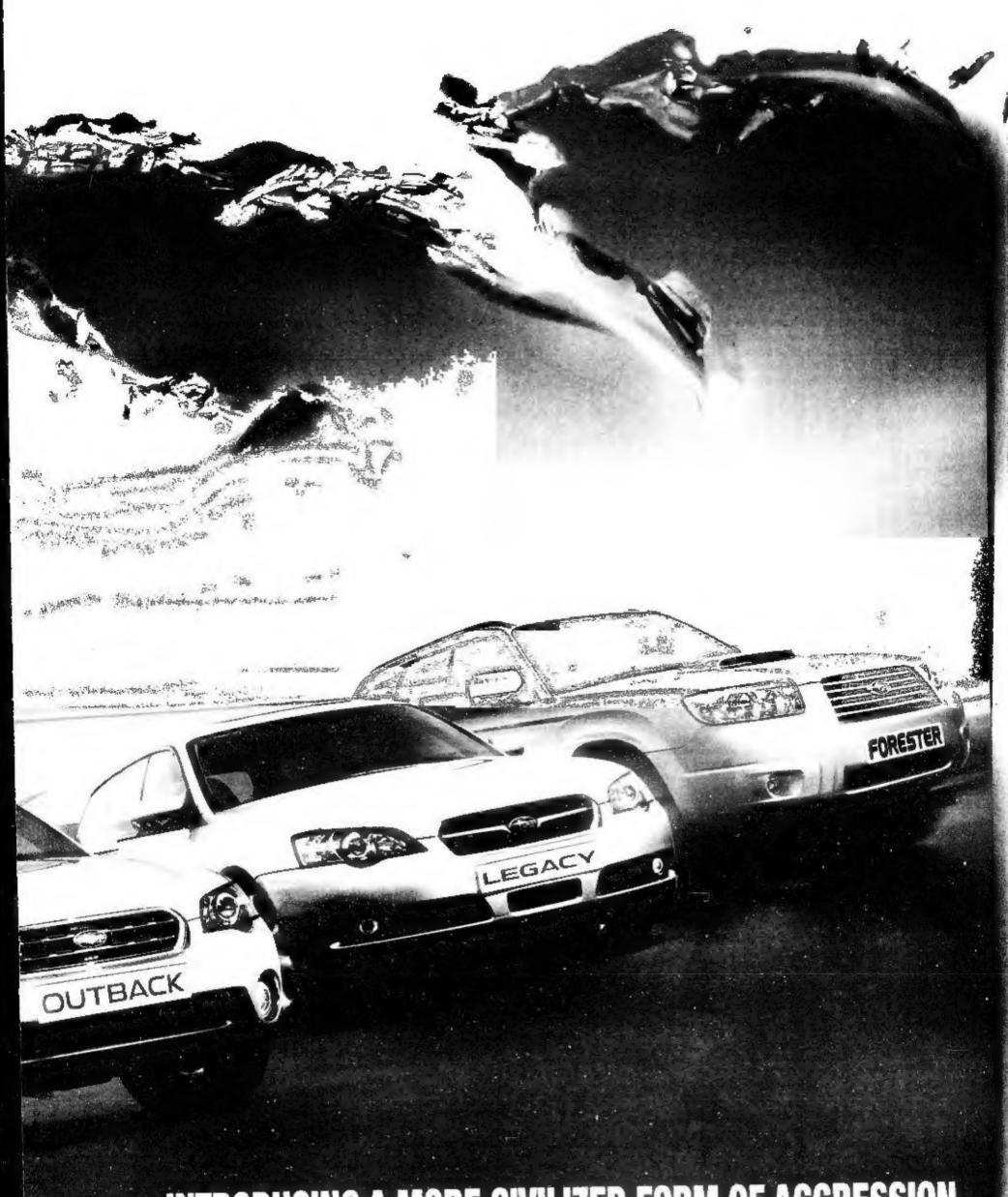
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Legitimacy still

HE COUNTRY'S CATHOLIC BISHOPS MAY BE pushing the people to mount another people power uprising, former Senate President Jovito Salonga warned. "The bishops are virtually telling the people there is no more hope," Salonga said following the refusal of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines to support the second attempt to impeach President Macanage Access

EDITORIAL pagal-Arroyo.

the bishops said they were "not inclined" to support the impeachment process which was bound to be unproductive like the first one given the rules and the "mind-sets of all participating parties." But Salonga said that "for all its imperfections," impeachment was the only legal means for Ms Arroyo to answer allegations that she had stolen the 2004 elections. "If you close that avenue because of the official stand of the influential CBCP, there may be no other way open to the people than resort to people power," he said.

Caloocan Bishop Deogracias Ifiguez, who signed one of several new impeachment complaints against the President, echoed the same warning. Iniguez said the people's desire to know the truth remains, so "if this constitutional means should fail, they will look for other avenues."

This is not the kind of warning that Malacañang and its allies in the House of Representatives are likely to heed. In fact, they are gloating over the CBCP's hands-off stance, with Speaker Jose de Venecia taking a big leap and proclaiming that the pastoral statement has "removed the moral basis for the new impeachment complaints." They know the opposition cannot gather the "critical mass" necessary for a people power uprising. It tried to do it several times last year and failed, and there is no reason to think it will succeed any time in the near future. For as much as Filipinos distrust administration officials, they have also grown cynical about the intentions of opposition leaders-just like the bishops-and they are not about to march in the streets to demand that the truth be told about the elections of 2004. And with a President who is hell-bent on blocking every effort-including that of the Senate—to ascertain the truth, the Filipino people may have to wait until 2010 to get the full story-but that is assuming they will elect a new leader who is less than friendly to Ms Arroyo.

They can find out the truth about 2004 earlier, if they want to—by next year in fact. They can do this by electing to Congress people who will support the President's impeachment. The opposition doesn't have to win the majority of seats in the House to impeach the President, all it needs are 80 votes and the impeachment complaint goes

to the Senate.

With the new attempt to impeach Ms Arroyo facing tertain defeat, the opposition should shift gears and focus their efforts on the 2007 elections. Opposition candidates can make the search for truth and justice the central issue of the campaign and hold the incumbents accountable for their vote in the impeachment complaint. This is better than the proposal of former Comelec Chair Christian Monsod to turn the 2007 polls into a referendum on the Arroyo administration, which would veer away from the issue of legitimacy and focus on the President's performance. After all, good works cannot legitimize a stolen victory, if indeed Ms Arroyo stole it as her critics have charged.

If the new impeachment effort is futile as the bishops seem to believe it is, it isn't exactly a useless exercise. It keeps the issue burning in the consciousness of the Filipino people. And if the people want to help unlock the secret that the administration wants to keep sealed, they

will have that opportunity next year.

Death certificate

SRAETS INTENSIFIED ATTACKS ON GAZA AND ITS SEIZURE OF a dozen Palestinian officials and lawmakers have drawn no reaction from the international community. For several days now, the Palestinians and their civil facilities have been the target of relamiless Israeli onslaught, which imparts an unequivocal message to the Palestinians and to the outside world.

FOREIGN COMMENT

The Israelis have apparently taken advantage of the abduction of a 19-year-old soldier in order to write the death certificate for the Hamas-led government.

The world's silence is widely seen as a license to Israel to continue its wanton rampage with impunity.

The Egyptian Gasette (Cairo, Egypt)

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Bullies with diplomas

POLITICAL BUILLIES ARE USUALLY SKINNED in this section of the Inquirer. But this column is about school builties, real ones—and how their cruelty blights lives long after diplomas start to fede.

At the Ateneo last week, Prof. Onofre Pagsanjan told his students that he attended the wake for Ramon Cordero Salvosa, 32. Who?

Many Ateneans today know Benjamin Salvosa III. He authored the textbook: "Called To Discover Our Christian Roots." He teaches a course, titled: "Living in a World of Lights and Shadows," about living in a world of good, marred by evil. But Ramon?

Acrually, Ramon belonged to an amazing Areneo honors class, Pagsanjan recalled. When there'd be Reading of Honors ceremonies, the whole class often mounted the stage. Ramon was No. 2 in that demanding cluster.

That was expected. In grade school, he'd tick off names of the US and Philippine presidents, in order, tossing in their middle names. "In grade school, when the teachers saw us they would say, 'Look, there's Ramon Salvosa and his brother," Benjie remembers.

In Grade 7, two transfer students joined this exceptional class. They too were bright. But they were also bullies who normented classmates as nerds and weaklings. And they picked on the two brightest students: the overweight clumsy Ramon and the class president.

"Intelligence, unfortunately, does not mean kindness," Benjie writes. Those who were more intelligent and privileged can sometimes be more cruel than the average person.

One of the two withstood the bullying and graduated college at the top of his batch, Pagsanian said. "The other, Ramon, was broken for life." (He) simply could not cope with unprovoked cruelry and drifted from school to school. "The psychological wounds of his trauma never healed." Only within his family did he feel safe from the jeering and bruising.

A bettered Ramon left the Areneo, and sextled in their quiet Philam family home in Quezon City, He'd spend hours reading and writing in his

THE CELEBRATIONS THAT ERUPTED, OR

were whipped up, in the wake of Manny Pac-

quiao's victory over Oscar Larios last week sud-

denly made me think of anwares. Indeed, the

whole phenomenon of Pacquiso becoming the

quintessential Filipino hero, knocking off (pun

intended, teeth flying and all) the self-effacing

Efren "Batx" Reyes for the honor, made me

think of aswengs. That is not as facetious as it

Aswang sightings have a sanguine (pust intended as well, homiks-type blood-curdling

gore and all) history in this country, appearing—if sociologists are to be believed—in dire

times, when people are hungry and desperate.

The manananggal, an underworld creature

that leaves the lower half of its female body in

some secret nook while its upper half forages

for prey, drawn in particular by the smell of the

unborn fettes, is the usual MFO or much-identi-

fied flying object there. On dark, rainy and

moonless nights, or sometimes even in light,

dry and moonlik ones, it can be seen in a haze

swooping jaggedly across the skyline, or be

heard flapping its wings as it alights on a roof.

countryside, but to go by reports on tabloids

and (crime) TV, they have also been known on

occasion to happen in the dark alleys of shan-

tyrowns. They galvanize the community to ac-

don, the local leaders organizing night vigils. I do not know if they hold torches aloft, like in

the movies, or croak in imitation Transylvani-

an accents. I do know they scour secluded

places in hopes of discovering the mananang-

gal's lair. The belief being that if the lower half of its body is laden with salt, the upper half

would no longer be able to reconnect to it and

I don't know if any community has actually

destroyed an anwang. The stories about the

sightings disappear from the newspaper read-

ers' sight or the TV viewers' view far more sud-

derly than the anwangs themselves from the

eyes of their spine-ringled beholders. But not

after giving the community the satisfaction of

having done something about a most mon-

perish in the sunlight.

The sightings normally take place in the

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

father's office. In those years, "we got to know the real Ramon—a gentle soul that couldn't harm a fly and content with his books and long walks," Benjie said. And he "would waik for hours on end on his good days," Pagsanjan said. "Buz on the bad days, he would hear the taunting and jeering and ridiculing all over again. This went on for over 18 years of his life."

Ramon just didn't know how to fight back. And his classmares, teachers and school administrators did everything they could to stop the bullying. Benjie says. "But even they couldn't watch Ramon every minute of the day. He could not function like before. After a while, it became clear to us that he may never be able to return to school and be the way he was."

At his wake, Ateneo Honors Class 1989 class president—now Francis Alvarez of the Society of Jesus—told Ramon's mother, Carmen: "Mrs. Salvosa, I'm very sorry and would like in apologize that we were not able to assist and shield Ramon from the builies that turnemed him at the grade school. I was also a target of those same bullies. They used to lock me in the rest recom?"

"The darkness that ind engulfed Ramon led him to regard his home here in PhilAm and the park here where he walked every day, as an enclave, a sanctuary where no one would but him any further," his father Jerry said.

"That was the boy we lost: so exuberant, so spontaneous and so keen about learning," his father added in the family response after the funeral Mass. We lost ... the promise of a life that was supposed to be a joyful journey into an unlimited world of learning."

Periodically, in those 18 crippled years, dark-

ness would sweep over Ramon. The voices of his tormentors screamed through his head. In that recurring dark night, there'd be two lights for Ramon.

"My father, Jerry, was always present to him and there for him," Benjie recalls. The other was my mother Carmen who took care of him day and night. Every night, she'd check on Ramon. If ill, she'd pray the rosary over him."

In the last two weeks of his life, darkness swept over Ramon. The old cruel jeers reechoed unceasingly in his head. For 18 years, Ramon's mother patiently brought him to confession. Now, Carmen convinced him to go to the sacrament of reconciliation, this time to
specifically forgive the tormentors who still
haunzed him. "I have forgiven them," he said after what was to be his last confession.

"With hindsight, we wish we had told Ramon, that these were the times to act instinctively, just like an angry dog," the father told those gathered for the wake.

"In times of peace, sons bury their fathers," my father would often say. "In times of war, fathers bury their sons. There must be a war Because I had just buried my son today, dead at the hands of violent men. There must be a war It is the war that Ramon could not comprehend or grasp: a war against unprovoked, deliberate cruelry and viciousness."

In an admirable expression of constrained grief, Pagsanjan told his class. "Our Father in heaven must have looked down with much gentieness and love on this grieving father. God, the Pather, would understand him. For He too had a son who was bullied on the cross."

Friends and Ateneo students today ask the Salvosas: How do you feel? "Of course, we're sad and miss seeing him around," they reply. "But at the same time, we are happy because he'll never hear those voices again: no more hurt, no more pain. It means Ramon will never fall into the darkness again and forever be in the light."

E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph

Sightings

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strous threat to their lives, notably to that of their newborns or about-to-be-borns.

Sociologists explain it thus: It has nothing to do with people having hallucinations from hunger pangs. It has everything to do with people projecting their fears into something tangible that they can do something about. Life's problems are far too complex and people are at their wits' end trying to make sense of them, let alone solve them. Hasier to fight aswangs. Por all their horrific aspects, the aswangs can be vanquished with garlic, crucifix and (drunken) machismo. You defeat aswangs—the sign of victory being simply that they are no longer sighted after the vigil and vigilance—you gain a token or vicarious victory over life's problems.

Pacquiao's fears, or fists, are not unlike that. Of course, there's the aspect as well of his having become the ideal Filipino Everyman because he embodies the hopes of the bedraggled poor about how in escape their lot. Or quite literally how to fight their way out of their plight, it's nothing new. Every impoverished Brazilian too—and they are legion—dreams of becoming another Ronaido, a poor idd who used to play football barefoot in an obscure street in Rio and who went on to become one of the greatest players, of the "beautiful game." Which meant being fabulously rich apart from being fabulously rich apart from being fabulously famous, Not everyone can become a Ronaido, or a Pacquiao, but as the song goes, "I can dream, can't !?"

goes, "I can dream, can't I?"

More than that—which is the reason the current regime has capitalized on Pacquiao's fortunes—Pacquaio has also become, or been turned, into the token, vicarious, substitute way of dealing with the country's problems.

GMA's congratulatory words to Pacquian after be beat Larios to a pulp were explicit in that thought. She wished, she said, that Pilipinos would emulate Pacquiao and conquer their exemies, or their nation's problems, with heart and fist. Of course, she did not compare herself to Larios when she exhorted her countrymen

to do that. Pacquaio's enemies are not unlike aswangs, however they take on rock-like solidity in the ring rather than flit about like phantoms in the night. For all their horrific aspects, particularly in the form of Marco Antonio Barrera, Juan Manuel Marquez and Erik Morales-Larios was just cannon fodder-they can be variquished with blood and guts, heart and fist, muscle and machismo. Unlike grinding poverty whose solution is unknown and unknowable, the enemy is right there waiting to be purimeled. Unlike powerlessness whose solution is elusive and unclear, the enemy is right there waiting to be tackled. Unlike life's problems, which are far too complex (people are at their wits' end trying to make sense of them, let alone solve them), the enemy is identifiable, understandable, beatable.

I'm not knocking aswangs and boxing as people's ways of dealing with crushing reality. They are coping mechanisms, and heaven knows we all can do with ways to cope with the nightmarish pass we find ourselves in today. But the danger is when the projection becomes the injection, when the invention becomes the intervention, when the temporary illusion becomes the permanent reality. The danger is when the escape substitutes for the living. Aswang sightings have not been very plentiful these days but Pacquiao sightings, perticularly in the form of ads, are so. That's fine, so long as we do not forget that there are far more real assumes right there who have been sinking their fangs into our necks all this time; and far more vicious enemies who have been bludgeoning us to a bloody pulp all this time. We forget that, we'll end up bled dry among the bushes of history.

ishes of history. We forget that, we'll end up TKOed by life.

OPINION

Bishops are pragmatic people

THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF the Philippines, in a "Pastoral Letter on Social Concerns," which was issued after its recent plenary assembly, said it was "not inclined at the present moment to favor the impeachment process as the means for establishing the truth about the alliegations that President Macapagal-Arroyo cheated in the 2004 elections. The CBCP said that unless al. participating parties, pro and con, "are guided by other motives then the genuine concern for the common good," it would once again serve "as an unproductive exercise, dismaying every chizen and deepening their) negative perreption of politicians Left. Right and Center."

The opposition was doubtless quite frustrated over the CBCP stand but it's clear the bishops do not believe that the opposition leaders are guided by a "genuine concern for the common good." It's clear that the bishops perceive that the opposition politicians seeking Ms Arroyo's ouster are only after their own selfish agends, and that another move to impeach the President will only bring about greater instability and hinder economic reforms and programs. Clearly, the bishops do not want to be used by any selfish interest.

The bishops must have been guided by their sense of pragmatism. They obviously do not believe the second impeachment can prosper; so, despite their divine calling, they do not want to be party to a lost cause. In fact, even the Hyatt 10 has abandoned the call for GMA's ouster through impeachment, and has gone back to singing their old refrain: that GMA "make the supreme sacrifice and voluntarily relinquish her office." But that prospect also looks quite hopeless to the group, for now it is proposing the holding of a map presidential election. The arrogance of its members is unbelievable.

Many pundits have noted how recent events are unraveling in GMA's favor. The capture of six Magdalo soldiers in their hideout near the

POLITICAL TIDBITS Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

Batasan and the release of the tape of detained Brig, Gen. Danilo Lim have doubtless discouraged more House members from going to the side of the opposition, Lim's tape has reinforced the justification for the issuance of Proclamation 1017-in defense of the beleaguered State. Thus, it's predictable that the impeachment move will be killed in the House Committee on Justice.

But perhaps, the biggest reason the impeach ment move is doomed is that—despite the sixable number of people who do not believe in or like GMA-most Filipinos would rather see her finish her term in the hope she could completely turn around the economy, than support any destabilization move. Most people want dosure to the cheating issue, so the country can move on. Our leaders should listen to them.

Cacille Alvarez and I recently invited Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda, presidential economic advises, to guest in our Sunday 9:15 p.m. radio program over dzRH. His presence in the program proved to be a lot of fun for us and, doubtless, for our audience nationwide. Pirst, the 44-year-old, thirdterm Albay congressman, a graduate of management engineering from the Ateneo and of business management from the Asian Institute of Management, revealed that on his mother's side, he has a lot of relatives who are religious name. We quipped that they must be busy keeping him out of mischlef with their prayers.

Salceda also reveled in the fact that his native Bicol region has moved up from being the second tary.

poorest after Muslim Mindanao to the fourth poorest, with 246,000 families freed from poverty during GMA's term. That Rical is being rescued from the bottom is, I should think, fixting and imag-overdue, for it boasts of a powerhouse pack of legislators. Aside from Salceda, who's quite influential with GMA, there's Sen. Joker Arroyo, the lion of the Estrada impeachment and who has become even more influential now that the Wednesday Group is about to come into power, so to speak, with Sen. Manny Villar taking the Senare beim. In fact, some pundits read this group's influence as extending to Malacathang, after its members had a eray dinner with GMA about 10 days ago. Then there are Representatives Lais Villafuerte and Edcel Lagman, among the top legal huminaries in last year's ann-impeachment team.

We asked Salceda about the P64 billion that the senature had cut from the 2006 national budget. The cut prompted GMA to threaten to veto the budget if it were passed by Congress. Salceda stressed that in reality what the senators cut was P129 billion. More on Salcoda's

Margie Pengson Julco, a close associate of former President Corazon Aquino, called to deny a perception-aired here by some quarters-that CBCP president Angel Lagdameo is close to Ms Acquino and is anti-GMA because of the influence of Margle, whose mother is a Lagdameo. She said that her perceived closeness to the prelate, while flattering, is not based on facts. The truth, she said, is that if they were to meet at a gathering, he may not be able to recognize her. Besides, there are many other Lagdameo relatives quite close to GMA. Among them are Cynthia Carrion-Norton, GMA's physical figness mentor; new ambassador to Mexico Antonio Lagdameo; Chris Carrion, cochair of the Edsa People Power Commission, and Marilou L. Varona, GMA's correspondence secre-

Bishops treated as hacks?

IF IT IS TRUE THAT SOMEONE HAD BEEN distributing money envelopes—supposedly from Malacanang to members of the Catholic Bish ops' Conference of the Philippines during their retreat and pienary assembly, I hold the bishops partly to blame. How could this have happened?

According to an Inquires news report yesterday by Christian V. Esguerra, a bishop (described as "soft-spoken" and "low-key") admitted having been handed an envelope by a "casual-looking" man who had introduced himself as a messenger from Malaceflang."

How could the hishops or their personnel allow in an outsider during their retreat and delib erations on a much-awaited statement? Why was this Mr. Moneybag allowed to walk around and between distribute envelopes containing between P20,000 and P30,000? If this indeed happened or was allowed to happen, then one could only conclude that the bishops were caught unawares or tatanga-tanga "Sorry, but that is the translation in Filipino and its root word does not sound nice

If they were in conclave electing a pope, word would have gotten out before white smoke could come out of the channey.

And why didn't anyone rause a how! right there and then? The bishops were after all in their territory. They were not guests in a place where decorum would have dictated that they did not embarrags their host with an uproar. If I were on the receiving end. I would have roared, "Who the devil sent you?!" or "Begone, Satant" then called security and staff to help investigate who the uninvited guest was

This was an incident that would have merited wrath not so unlike the wrath Jesus displayed in le when he saw it being defiled by those trying to earn a few bucks in a sacred place. There was a proper place for such activities, Jesus said, in the same way that there is a proper manner to send donations to bishops.

Whoever was the devil who sent the money envelopes during that occasion, one thing is evident-that person/those persons had no respect for the bishops. The bishops were looked upon





and treated as mere backs that could be paid, bought, bribed and made to look like spineless fools lacking in virility—which they are not. Try caying that in Filance

One could say, well, that goes with forays into political territory where money talks. This is not to say that those in the Church hierarchy have no business speaking on secular and political issues. But how have some individual bishops been comporting themselves in relation to the imending political fracas? Hammin, one too many trying-hard warmabes, if you ask me. But this is my own biased perception.

It was revolung, I felt insulted," the bishoo who comes from a poor diocese said. "Medyo garapal." (Quite brazen.) I wish the bishop had allowed our reporter to name him

The envelopes were reportedly inserted into bishops' pockets; and when they returned to their rooms, they were surprised to find money inside the envelopes. Some said they were going to return the money.

To whom? Yes, beware of strangers inserting anything inm your clothing, books, bags and other personal belongings. In airports, stations, mails and even hallowed places where hishops pray and meet.

The news report said that as early as Monday, the eye of the CRCP retreat that was to be followed by a plenary session, some Mala canang representatives (OK, plural now) were already seen lostering at the Pope Pius XII Catholic Center. This was according to a bishop who had rejected an envelope offered to hum. The "messengers" approached bishops during break time

and offered "livelihood" money. Livelihood? What could P20,000 to P30,000

do for livelihood? The bishop-informant was right—the amount was not for livelihood projects but for the individual bishops' personal use.

Malacañang merely laughed off the report about the messengers who offered envelopes Were they impostors then? If Malacanang didn't send them, who did?

Now presidential chief of staff Michael Defensor is saying that henceforth donations would be directly given to hishops or the diocesan social action centers (SACs) This was supposed to be the suggestion of governors, mayors and NGOs. This was supposed to prevent jealousy among incal officials and NGOs

At least one bishop, Parahaque's Bishop Jesse Mercado, has said that he has rejected offers of medicine, rice, poodles and other stuff offered by the Arroyo administration. Indeed, why give these to the bishops when there are government agencies that can handle these? Sure, in a disaster situation, the diocesan SACs could act as conduits, but nowadays when the color of money is the color of politics, the Church should be more

circumspect and safely suspicious.

On the other side of the globe, Pope Benedict XVI did not mince words when he spoke at the huge two-day family rally in Valencia, Spain. He repeatedly condemned threats to the so-called traditional family, among them, same-sex marringe and fast-track divorce. Alas, nothing was heard about the clear and present danger that is the physical fragmentation of families as a result of parents leaving home to work in foreign lands. Global economics have taken a toll on poor famities. Disparities in the wealth of nations have forced millions of parents to leave their children in order to give them a better life.

biousex's topnotch sports columnist Recali Trinidad will launch "Pacific Storm," his book on the life and rise of boxing champ Manny Pacquiso at 6 p.m. today, July 13, at the National Book Store in Shangri-la Mall on Edsa.

Send feedback to cerespd@info.com.ph

Different worlds

WHAT DO YOU GET FROM HELPING THESE POOR PBOple—fulfillment ?" my friend demanded.

"No. I must love ... " I began to say, but he cut me off.

"Stop, Nonsense, They are helpless. Anyway, have you seen the pictures of people I've met and the places I've been to in Friendster?"

"Yes, the pictures were great." "Now, that's fulfillment!"

I was talking on the phone with an old college buddy,

whom I hadn't seen in eight years. He was reacting to the update I had given him. I was working for a non-government organization pushing for agrarian reform and rural development and I had spent some of my good

twentysomething and below.—Ed. years assisting the peasants and the indigenous people in their struggle to ac-

YOUNG BLOOD

Ruel Punongbayan

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their 102

welcome contributions from the

thoughts on current issues? We

quire the lands they till. Pocholo (Choy) and I got to be friends when we were) IIB studying at the University of the Philippines in Diliman sev- gg eral years ago, I hadn't seen him since we went our separate off wave during our sophomore year. I shifted to public administract tration, while Choy took up mass communications. But even then, I already knew he would make it big, primarily because 'VB of his talent; he could mimic voices of famous celebrities and 80 persons (he could make good old Willy Nepomuceno sound 251 like an amateur, no kidding) During our college days, he) was already dubbing volces for foreign cartoons scheduled , 30 for showing on local TV

Although he was from Batzan, Choy was not your typical 9bi down-to-earth promds. He was cocky but very sociable at the '5b same time. Whenever he got his paycheck for dubbing those 177 carroons, he would take me out for a dinner of spicy calderetoin a carinderia at the back of Vinzons Hall or we would pig out on food bought from the "Aristocart" in front of Narra

A few weeks before our first phone conversation after 878. years of being incommunicado, Choy had sent me a message 'fla requesting for his name's inclusion on my list of friends from yet a well-known online social network. Surprised, I quickly did alo as he requested and sent him my cell phone number along with a helio-how-do-you-do message. Browsing through his account, I saw pictures of him taken all over the world, with 1/1 famous landmarks in the background. Reading through, 1 f 2i learned that after graduating, he put up a company which just sources out voices and sound effects for cartoons and other 130 productions both local and foreign, it was obvious that Choy oil was, to use his own words, "big time" now.

There's no money in development work," he told me, add "Look at me, aren't you envious? I have lots of money."

"Certainly not," I replied, "I love my work and my heart #79 goes to the people I serve. But I'm happy for you, bro. You've III'm come a long way." "Quit your job and enjoy life," he urged me. "Life is too 11Q!

thort, dude." "I will not quit my job," I told him firmly. "Life is too short riw

indeed, and that is why I'm making the most of it." There was silence on the other side. He must have hung aw up. Odd, I said to myself.

I went back to my computer and wondered what happened to Choy. Wasn't he being too arrogant? Was he the same guy! used to hang our with? Where was he coming from?

I kept going back to our brief conversation. After a while, 1911 my thoughts began to focus on myself. Maybe it was me who 1 01 had changed. What happened to me?

I was a bit confused, to be honest about it. To help me think and process the things running in my head, I made myself a cup of chamomile rea. I was taking my third sip when I found off! it. I was like an enlightened Archimedes sitting in his raib.

I realized that Choy and I hadn't changed. We were the ; to same persons as before. He was still a mayerick and quick with affi words, while I was still laid-back and reflective. It was just that only we were in two different worlds now. We looked at things from different perspectives. He saw poor people as statistics while I M knew the names and the lines on the faces of those people. He TIA was in awe of the design of landmarks he visited while I appre- 1821 ciated the hard labor expended and the stories behind these BITS feats. He enjoyed his living while I celebrated life.

I sighed with relief as I recognized this truth, it is not every day that I learn a new lesson in life. And with a smile on my face, I went on with my work.

Ruel Punongbayan, 28, is a program monitoring officer at the 1931 Project Development Institute, an NGO advocating agrarian re- iq1 form and rural development.

Pawn-feeding time

THE APPOINTMENT OF TARLAC REP. JESLI Lapus as secretary of education brings down to 77 the number of votes required to send articles of impeachment to the Senate. Never has the bar been set so low and yet seemingly unattainable One reason is that the pressure on members of the House of Representatives remains divorced from the unpopularity of the President: some political observers are of the opinion that supporting an unpopular President will never be a political liability for members of the House. The congressmen know it and act accordingly. Many are the blessings to be gained for continuing to poolpoob impeachment, as Nueva Ecija Rep. Rodolfo Antonino Beija fully knows (as part of the President's party in Rome, he was seen wearing a broad smile)

However, the administration's behavior in recent weeks showed continued nervousness on its part, and increasing ruthlessness in dealing with allies who have come to be perceived as liabilities. But then, what are pawns for, if not victims to be offered up as strategic sacrifices? It's pawnfeeding time

The war on the Catholic Church has proven fruitful so long as the bishops remain divided, their words can be downplayed. What does is matter if some bishops were offended, as one bishop put it, by the offer of cash envelopes? What's important is that bishops are postrayed as not beyond the temptation of cash. That perception, once planted in the minds of the public, can only erode the credibility of whatever they say, in the time of Ferdinand Marcos, for every Jaume Cardinal Sin who became increasingly critical, there was always a Jutio Cardinal Rosales to fawn on the ruling couple. The same applies today, resulting in, at the very least, a pastoral statement that can still be spun in heipful ways.

Releasing the video of Brig. Gen. Dentlo Lim, while disproving the existence of a "Leftist-Rightist conspiracy," let loose a cloud to follow Armed Porces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga and a downpour on every one of his going-away parades.

THE LONG VIEW Manuel L. Quezon III

Every officer has been warned that military discipline should be along the imes of Gen. Fabian Ver's farmous (though apocryphal) response to Marcos' order for him to jump out the window. "From which floor, Sir?" The Commander in Chief's expectations of obedience are indeed strict.

The question of a conspiracy can be addressed through the apprehension of escapeest there, the administration can claim, was a conspiracy, though how they could have accomplished their aims by being on the run remains unanswered. What official revelations suggest is that those captured may have been full of bravura, but pretty far from actually accomplishing anything. Though I really wonder how many Filipinos would weep were Congress to be held at gunpoint—not even the President's local government affices, themselves constantly at odds with congressmen, would mind

There, too, was the rather clever sidestepping of a Supreme Court deadline by throwing the least partisan—and controversial—of Comelec commissioners to the wolves. And now, reports of the arrest of Joe-Joe Bulante, the one administrationidentified individual who served as a living antidote to all the hysterics aimed by the President's supporters at critics like Dinky Soliman (déclassé as she is, can you honestly find her more reprehensible than Bolante?). The pawns are indeed plentiful, and handing them over one by one not only buys time, but further clouds the issues.

A recent survey by the Social Weather Stations says that the President's impopularity has significantly decreased from -25 in March of this year, to -13 as of June. It's a big improvement, bringing her a couple of steps higher, but still pretty deep

in the basement of public opinion. Her unpopularity has significantly increased in

Metro Manila, sinking to an unprecedented -48 as of June; and what's of greater significance, her impopulacity has increased among those furtherly considered the bulwark of her support base the ABC classes. Those classes had her at -17 in March, as of June, her unpopularity stood at 27, which is a big change. The only times she's been more unpopular, apparently, were in December of 2000 and May of last year.

So while the President can breathe a sigh of rehef that the masses are less inclined to lynch her, it's still not saying much. In the Visayas, her regional bailiwick outside of Pampanga, public opinion seems statistically neutral: she has a +2 rating, a big improvement from the -12 she had in March, Mindanao, 100, showed a large shift, from 32 to to -7 Negative numbers aren't something to boast about in a democracy, where the Americans for example, are heaping scorn on George W. Bush for having a rating in the low 30s: he's never hit negative numbers but it seems scandalous in Americans that they have a president disliked by roughly 70 percent of the population. Here at home, the chief executive knows she's luckier.

it doesn't matter that more people dislike her than like her, so long as those who don't like her fail to reach a critical mass. As it stands, those who are satisfied with the President comprise 34 percent of the population; those who are dissatisfied, 48 percent. Subtracting one from the other is why the SWS ram conclude that the President's

net sansfaction stood at -13 as of June it's all a matter of, as the song goes, "how low can you go?" Like singing "Limbo Rock" at a beach party, the surveys only serve to show that the stick of public opinion can be held lower and lower, but the President will find a way to slide underneath, without failing on her back. And that's because she recognized, earlier than most, that our democracy operates not on what majorisies you hold, but the stubbornness of the minorities you can retain



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Who has the right to complain

DOES ONE WELL-LIT LAMPPOST by December 2006. on a dark city block really make a difference?

I lived in the United States for 17 years, the last nine years in New York City. I returned home to Manile in August 2003, more American than my Filipino family and friends could ever date imagine or easily accept (albeit I remained fluent in the Filipino language). If there is one thing that America has imprinted in me, it's the idea that if you are unhappy with a situation, you have no right to complain unless you are willing to do something to address it.

I noticed that a stretch of De La Rosa Street, between Legaspi Street and Makati Avenue, was pitch-black at night. Since I walk whenever I can to avoid traffic, it caused me some discomfort to walk on a damy lit street-in the central business district no less.

On May 11, 1 e-mailed Rick Yupengeo of Avala Land, requesting him to speak to the Ayala Museum management to keep its bu .dung lights on after 9 p.m. Knowing how slow everything happens in the Philippines, I braced myself for a long wait, thinking realistically that this street should be lit cirl benefit of a well-lit street.

Around June 16, I noticed a lamppost in the middle of the block, across Ayala Museum, illummating the once dark street. I thank the group of people who made this happen. Congratula-

If you want to change this country, you have to change the beliefs, attitudes, priorities, values, methods and ideas that do not work. Filipinos have a proclivity to accept things because "that's how they've always been," while perpetually complaining about their less than idea; state of affairs. Even the things we don't want to accept, we somehow manage to tolerate (a character trait known in Filipino as "mattista"). You really have to wonder how far this attitude can take as.

If you love your country, put your effort into caring about the small things that metter. If you cannot fix the small things, there ir not a chance in the heavens you will ever be able to fix the big things. I didn't enjoy walking in the dark, neither did my fellow Finpinos. But I claimed my right, as a tax-paying cruzen, to the so-

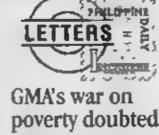
If you want the Philippines to catch up with the rest of our neighbors in Asia, arm your strong faith with goal-oriented action. Doing the right thing is not always easy And in a country whose moral compass is not exactly in order, doing the right thing is also oftentimes unpopular But I am a God-fearing Christian before I am a Fi tpino, so I have to stand by biblical ideals even if they run counter to the prevailing Pinoy

Don't belittle your efforts. Over time, your vigilance adds up and sets a good example for people who will one day lead this coun-

I am a natural cymic yet I have tremendous hope for the Philippines. This country and its people are far too beautiful for me to lose hope in them. There will be better days ahead for all Pilipinos, not

And yes, a lone light shining in the darkness makes a difference. Ask anyone who had tripped walking in the dark in the middle of the right, going to the bath-

-TINA VITAS, **Maketi City**



poverty doubted

THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL COordination Board came out recently with a list of the top 10 poorest provinces. Seven of these provinces are located in the Mindango region, two in the Visayas and one in Luzon. The list should give the national government an idea as to where it should pour its resources to solve widespread poverty, hunger and malnutrition in the country.

The Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food" (approved in November 2004 by the Food and Agriculture Organization council) is clear Where poverty and hunger are predominantly rural, States should focus on sustainable auticultural and rural development through measures (that) improve access to land, water, appropriate and affordable technologies, productive and financial resources."

However, it is obvious that the Arroyo administration has been focusing its "anti-poverty efforts" on areas that are less poor, albeit more prone to polinical restive ness. For example, in the Food for School program being implemented nationwide, the biggest number of beneficiaries-some 20 000 in all-are residents of the National Capital Region. Compare this number to that of Caraga, which has 6,748 benefichanes or to that of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao with its 8,325 beneficiames. The Department of Education wanted to favor regions poorer than the NCR, but Palace officials had the final say.

Or take a look at the targeted 16,000 jobs which presidential adviser on job creation Arthur Yap announced. (PDI, 5/4/06) He said P500 million will be released for road-clearing work to create jobs in Metro Manda, Central Lazon and Southern Tagalog. Again, these relatively well-off regions were chosen possibly because these are places where there are strong anti-GMA forces.

If the President is really serious in liberating the Pilipino people from poverry, she should focus on regions like Bicol Caraga, ARMM the Zamboanga Peninsula which have smaller internal tevenue autotments and rax base

-RAFPY REY HIPOLITO, policy advocacy officer. Poodfirst Information & Action Network-Philippines, 9B Matulungin St., Barangay Central, Queson City

IT WAS BOSTASY FOR ME TO watch the "I-Witness" opisode on the Lukayo, to see empowered women in the outskirts of our cities, doing rituals that freely express their sexuality. I wanted to know more about similar rituals,

Intriguing form of cover-up

many of which deal with phallic symbols that represent either fertility or simply a way to respond to the forces of nature. Thanks to Ramon Obusan. Thanks also to Howie Severino.

I was intrigued by how much I

have yet to learn from our past as a people and how much I have to unlearn of the morals and taboos that have been taught to me by our social institutions. Who could have imagined rural women brandishing in the streets and poking at each other those self-made phallic symbols? Women activists in the cities might as well imagine these as useful advocacy materials for the agenda on sexuality and reproductive health.

Certainly, unly those who do not skirt around the issue can be responsible in handling the usue. Who could have imagined such ritual as acceptable in that particular community (except for the outsider parish priest) and likewise, understandable to most husbands of the Lukayos? Gender ad-

vocates might as well imagine these husbands as potential campaigners for gender equality.

But containly, the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board can't imagine any of these scenes being flashed on television screens. Hence, it considered the documentary offensive. On the other hand, it seems easy for the MTR-CB to imagine and tolerate television shows that treat the bodies of women no differently from brandy. cigarettes, bnefcases, etc.

I can't help but be reminded of the Metro Manila Development Authority's multi-layered pastercolored drawings conspicuously painted over red graffiti that demand wage hikes, a stop to political killings, the ouster of the government, etc. Graffin that should intrigue us of what the nation has become and what government institutions try to hide.

The MTRCB's suspension of "I-Witness" because of the Lukayo episode is an attempt, conscious or unwitting, to bury something that is part of our culture as a people. I sure hope such act would give us more reason to be "teased"

-AYEL LEYESA. Bukalsining (Bubay Kalaysan Sining), s tubongbarako@yahou.com

*Use part of education loan to upgrade textbook quality

THE WORLD BANK RECENTLY the books. Most of our locally pubextended a \$200-million loan to the Philippine government "to address the declining quarty of basic education." The money, it said, would be used to train the education system's staff in financial accountability, improve teaching standards and raise the quality of key courses such as English, Science and Mathematics.

It is the people's hope that this loan will really be used according to the purpose for which it is intended. Being the lender, hence, the one setting the terms and conditions of the loan, the World Bank can compel the Department of Education to use part of the loan to improve the quanty of the content of all textbooks used in Philippine schools, both public and private

In economics you start whit the "tary Andrew Gonzalez. There had land, in education, you start with been none released after that

hshed textbooks contain many seripus errors that, because of the unity or indifference of public and private education officials, go unchecked and get to be passed on as Gospel truth from generation to generation of unsuspecting snadents. This is precisely why the quality of education in our country has been declining over the years. The pronferation of defective textbooks is one problem that is crying out for a swift and per-

manent solution. Who knows what textbooks are being used in our schools at present? Are they really of good quality? The ast official "just of Approved Textbooks" was released in the year 2000 (DECS Order No. 35) under then Education Secre-

The DepEd, for the sake of transparency, must make public its official "List of Approved Textbooks for Use in Ail Public Schools for the School Year 2006-2007 " These textbooks must tikewise be made available and accessible at ad times to anyone who wishes to review them for quality of content. (And why not? These are after all, public school textbooks bought with puber funds)

The public has every right to be granted these two simple requests. To deliberately withhold any part of the truth from someone who has the right to know is to be to him

-ANTONIO CALIPJO GO, academic supervisor, Marian School of Quezon City, 199 Sauyo Road, Novaliches, Quezon City

to the story on the legal action initimed by Joelle Pelaez, in which two persons named in her suit were referred to as UCPB executives (PDI, 7/6/06) The two left UCPB several years

Officials no longer with UCPB

ago: Lorenzo Tan in February 2002; and Rafael Bueno in September 2003

Since they are no longer connected with the bank, the story's de-

MAY WE CALL YOUR ATTENTION scription of the two is not entirely accurate and could be misleading.

May we, therefore, respectfully request that this be corrected and that, in the future, the two be referred to as former UCPB officials or executives.

-RICARDO Y, LEPATAN JR., nosistant vice president and head. Corporate Communications. United Coconut Planters Bank,

7907 Makati Avenue, Makati City

Was June Inquirer's Ruffa month?

IF JUNE WAS DECLARED THE INquirer's "Ruffa Gutierrez Month," then I missed that bit of news. But if not, then tama na, sobra na, OA

From June 19 to 30, four feature articles about the actress were published on the Super! and Entertainment sections. Sure, there are people out there who care about how much her gowns cost, how her family's vacation abroad went, how much gold she'd get from her hubby if their marriage fails, the who's who and the what's what at her birthday party, etc. But why should she get such an excessive amount of publicity from the country's leading newspaper, which is supposed to provide its readers balanced news, fearless views"?

Let me make it clear that I'm not against Ruffa being featured in whatever section of this paper. To a certain extent, I do appreciate and

am proud of her. After all, she brought honor to the country by almost winning an international pageant a 1-0-0-0-ng time ago. 1 just think that, as of the moment, there is nothing really newsworthy going on in her life so why the inordinate attention given to her by the INOURER within that 12-day period? len't too much of anything bad?

Not everybody is like Tim Yap, a die-hard "Ruffanian" who tends to praise his good friend to high heavens (as shown in his June 24 tribme-article "From Asia to Europe—every day!" Super!, Page

The pages of the INQUIRER could well carry other afestyle features. INQUIRER readers deserve better Please let the month of July contaun something new

-CLAUDE LUCAS C. DESPABILADERAS, clandelucas 2003@yabou.com

Don't blame Church for taking up cudgels vs jueteng

THANKS TO THE INQUIRER FOR its report on the justeng operations in Nueve Vizcays. (PDI 6/27/06) It revealed the kind of government we have today. It is dismaying to see that the Church has to attend to something that is the primary responsibility of the government.

said, the government is incompetent in stopping alega, gambung in their place. But this is true not only in Nueva Vizcaya, this is also true anywhere in this country.

I don't believe in police reports that jueteng in the country has been minumized or totally stopped.

As what Bishop Ramon Villena When people want to complain about jueteng, they can't go to the poster, some of whom art as "protectors" of the idegal operation. So the people have only the Church, the real protectors of the people, to

-JHAY SEBASTIAN, heejaysiako@hotmuil.com)



What people don't know about the proposed Cha-Cha

The proposed Cha-Cha is being presented as empowerment of the people. Yet, if we examine three documents, namely the Draft Petition of the "people's" Initiative (DP), House Resolution 1230 (HR), and the report of the Consultative Commission on Charter Change (CC), the proposed charter changes will do the opposite: give more political power to the few who already have too much of it.

1. It will take away our right to vote directly for the President/Head of State. Only members of Parliament will choose the Prime Minister

"The Prime Minister shall be elected by a majority vote of all the Members of Parliament from among themselves." (DP-Art. 7, Sec. 1; HR-Art. 7-A, Sec. 3; CC-Art. 8, Sec. 2)

"The President shall be elected from among the Members of the Parliament by a majority vote of all its Members for a term of five years..." (HR-Art. 7, Sec. 2; CC-Art. 9, Sec. 2)

It will create a powerful Interim Parliament composed of incumbent politicians that would decide whether 2007 elections would be held or not.

Interim Parliament will be composed of incumbent senators, congressmen, and cabinet secretaries: "There shall exist, upon the ratification of these amendments, an interim Parliament which shall continue until the Members of the regular Parliament shall have been elected and shall have qualified. It shall be composed of the incumbent Members of the Senate and House of Representatives and the incumbent Members of the Cabinet who are heads of executive departments." (DP-Art. 18, Sec. 4(1); HR-Art 18, Sec. 1; CC-Art. 20, Sec. 8 & 9)

Interim Parliament will be left alone to decide when the next elections are to be held including those for local positions: "The interim Parliament shall provide for the election of the members of the Parliament, which shall be synchronized and held simultaneously with the election of all local government officials."

(DP-Art, 18, Sec. 5(2))

3. It will create a super-President with additional Prime Minister powers. This is because the President will keep the powers specified by the 1987 Constitution, while enjoying the powers of Prime Ministeran arrangement vulnerable to abuse.

Impeachment becomes more difficult, if not nearly impossible: "The incumbent President and Vice-President shall serve until the expiration of their term at noon on the thirtieth day of June 2010 and shall continue to exercise their powers under the 1987 Constitution unless impeached by a vote of two thirds of all the members of the interim parliament." (DP-Art 18, Sec. 1(1))

Interim Prime Minister will only perform functions delegated by the President. He or she will be chosen by the President: "The incumbent President, who is the Chief Executive, shall nominate, from among the members of the interim Parliament, an interim Prime Minister, who shall be elected by a majority vote of the members thereof. The interim Prime Minister shall oversee the various ministries and shall perform such powers and responsibilities as may be delegated to him by the incumbent President." (DP-Art 18., Sec. 5(1); HR-Art. 18, Sec. 6; CC-Art. 20, Sec. 12 & 13)

Open the door for those in power to stay on in definitely.
 There is no prohibition in any of the proposals against incumbents, including the President, from running in

There is no prohibition in any of the proposals against incumbents, including the President, from running in any parliamentary elections to be held in 2010. Moreover, there is no limit in the number of terms: "Each Member of Parliament ... shall be elected by the qualified voters of his district for a term of five years without limitation as to the number thereof..." (DP-Art. 6, Sec. 1(2); HR-Art. 6, Sec. 1(2); CC-Art. 7, Sec. 4(1))

5. Open the door to other amendments (DP-Ast. 18, Sec. 4(4)), some of which may not even be known to the people today, such as amendments to weaken the Supreme Court as a check against martial law and, conversely, give more powers to the President to declare it. Once the Interim Parliament assumes plenary powers, it will be hard to stop.

CC deletes the following from Article VII, Sec. 18 of the 1987 Constitution: "The Supreme Court may review, in an appropriate proceeding filed by any citizen, the sufficiency of the factual basis of the proclamation of martial law or the suspension of the privilege of the writ or the extension thereof, and must promulgate its decision thereon within thirty days from its filing." (CC-Art. 9, Sec. 8)

And restores to the President the power to declare martial law in "imminent danger..." of rebellion, which was used by President Marcos to declare martial law but which was removed in the 1987 Constitution.

(CC-Art. A, Sec. 12)

The truth is there is nothing in the present Charter that hinders economic growth and social development. On the other hand, there are inherent dangers in making hasty changes in the Constitution under a flawed and legally questionable process.

Constitutional reforms, if necessary, are best done through a more transparent and representative Constitutional Convention after the 2007 elections, where any changes will not benufit those in power today.

We do not need the proposed Charter change. We need real change

Toin it. Download our complete position paper at www.oneverce way po

Applinario Mabini was born on July 23, 1864, Known as the "Sublime Paralytic", he wrote the Constitution for the art Philippine Republic.

Speak up for <u>real</u> change.

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All Biak-na-Bato quarrying stopped

By Christine Gayilcan

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND Natural Resources has suspended all quarrying and other mining-related operations in the Biakha-Bato National Park in San Miguel, Bulacan.

Reyes yesterday announced in a press conference that the agency Is suspending the operations of Rosemoor Mining and Development Corp., that holds a Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) in the premises of the Biak-na-Bato Mineral Reservation.

"The DENR has decided to sus-

Environment Secretary Angelo pend the mining/quarrying operations of Rosemoor until such time that the environment, social, safety and health measures are put in place, operating agreements are registered and approved and all proper taxes, fees and royatties are fully paid," said

He said that the agency is also

canceling all quarrying permits with," he added. issued by the provincial and manicipal governments covering aress in the national park, the mineral reservation, forest re-servation and watershed area.

He said Rosemoor has violated the several conditions of its MPSA specifically on partially paying excise taxes.

The company, he said, still has to pay P167,308 to the government from Nov. 17, 2005 to Jun.

Moreover, the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Program (EPEP)'s requirements have not been fully complied

Rosemoor had said it did not

violate any conditions in its mining permits and has been paying taxes regularly.

Reyes said the DENR is currently investigating the alleged double-marking of marble biocks.

The said mineral reservation has a unique and internationally known marble deposit referred as

Rosemoor's MPSA, issued by the DENR in December 2002, covers 330.3 hectares within the eastern portion of the national



NINO JESUS CRUSTAPOI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAL

DENR chief Reyes gentures at a meeting to discuss another environmental concern, the mining operations at Rapu-Rapu, Albay.

MILF, gov't militias sign truce pact

COTABATO CITY-GOVERN ment mintias loyal to Maguindanao Gov. Andat Ampatuan and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) guerrilias signed a truce agreement on Tuesday, raising hopes for an end to clashes between the two groups that drove thousands of residents from their homes.

The governor, Brig Gen Ramon Santos, and MILF leader Von Al Haq signed the pact that would be in effect for two

"What is important is we sepa-rated the warring groups and mormalcy has returned," said Santos, who heads the government panel in a team that moni-fors a ceasefire agreement with Sthe MILE

The truce agreement calls for finistary presence in several areas an Shariff Aguak town that had been battlefields between the cin.litias and guerrillas.

Teams composed of MILP Teams composed of MILF Speaders and military officials are to be deployed to monitor the

Fruce
It allows MILF members who
Live in the area to keep their firearms but not openly display

Demilitarized zones were earer delineated to keep apart the guerrillas and munnamen

The clashes, that sent at least 20,000 people fleeing, were be The clashes, that sent at least lieved triggered by a car bomb



SOME of the evacuees that used to call Shariff Aguak town their home.

attack on June 23 against the governor that left seven people

Militiamen were running after two MILF leaders believed behand the attack.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesper-

son, said the agreement was a breakthrough.

The civilians ... can now return home " said Kabalu.

But the evacuees have refused to return home.

"Where are we going to stay,

our houses were burned," said Bai, Intan Bagid, a resident of Barangay (agangampong. "We lost our homes, our farm products and our work animas." Jeoffrey Mattern and Edwin Fernandes, PDI Mundanao Bureau

More cops to be sent to agrarian hot spots

By Blanche S. Rivera

MALACAÑANG HAS ORDERED more policemen sent to problemand agrarian reform areas as part of the government's efforts to quash the insurgency in the countryside and facilitate land distri-

The government would start putting up police detachments in five haciendas in Negros Occidenta, this week also to prevent the knings of farmer leaders, Presidential chief of staff Michael Defensor said.

The Department of Agrarian Reform, along with farmers' organizations, is also assessing the situation in Bicos, Bondoc Península and Davao to see which areas need reinforcement from the Philippine Nationa, Pouce.

"I know that the source of the problem of rebellion is land. Most of them (insurgents) are farmers. We don't want to give the farmers a reason or opportunity to take up arms and fight the government," Defensor said in a press conference at the DAR yesterday.

Defensor and officials of the DAR, PNR and departments of Justice and National Defense met with leaders of the Task Force Maparad in Maracañang Monday to craft a strategy to address the kulings in Negros, home of the biggest sugar estates in the coun-

Three TFM leaders in the province have been killed this private armies.

year, with one being gunned down every month since April. At least six peasant leaders from TFM and Unorka have been kilted since 2001

"If the government had been decisive in implementing the CARP we would not have had these problems Farmers have paid with their lives. The government should do its part," TFM spokesperson Edna Sobrecaray

Malacañang has ordered police detachments set up in haciendas Mulawin and Hulbo in Sagay City, Velez Ma.aga and Cambuktot in La Castellana City, and Dorotea in Silay City.

The DAR would also install 93 farmer beneficiaries in 10 hectares of Hacienda Mulawin tomorrow with the aid of the provincial PNP

Agranan Reform Undersecretary Jeffrey Galan urged other farmers' groups to submit a list of problematic areas to the local DAR offices so the DAR could coordinate with the PNP in boosting police personnel.

"We will do this not just in Negros but in all areas since it's now poncy of Malacañang," Galan said, referring to the installation of police detachments in agrarian

Some farmer beneficiaries in Negros have had their certificates of land ownership award for 10 years but still could not occupy the land due to the landowners'

P6.2M spent to buy cell phones for solon

By Gerome M. Dalipe IV PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY THE DEPARTMENT of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) spent P6.2 million in Pebruary 2005 to purchase 1,582 units of Nokia 1100 cellular phones for "the use of Rep. Judy Jalbuena Syjuco," documents obtained by provincial administrator Manuel Mejorada showed.

However, the whole transaction was questioned after the supposed recipient of the cellular phone discovered that his signature in the Invoice Receipt for Property had been forged, and the phones never reached him.

Mejorada said he suspected "ghost delivery" for the celiular phones, as there was no trace of them at all after a soft drinks distributor supposedly cornered the "juicy transaction" allegedly upon the instance of Syjuco, the representative of the second district of Iloilo.

"Where did the cellular phones go?" Mejorada asked after Mayor Isabelo Maguino of Sta. Barbara, flow denied that the signature on the property receipt form for the 1,582 ceil phone units was his.

Maquino's supposed signature was the basis for the payment for the mobile plannes, Mejorada said.

Syjuco, spealing through her lawyer, yesterday denied any irregular transactions in the purchase of the cellular phones.

Alex Espino, lawyer and fiarson officer of Syjuco, described Mejorada's exposé as a "political capital" after Mejorada recently announced his intention to run against Syguco in the second district of Boilo.

Espino chadenged Mejorada to prove his allegations on the alleged illegal cell phones transaction.

He added they would also help Maquino to investigate who forged his signature. Mejorada said ir was highly

possible" that there was no physical delivery of the cellular phones and the transaction became a "C-to-C," short-cut for "convert to cash." He said he found it hard to be-

lieve that a little known beverage distributor in Jordan, Guimaras could easily corner a big contract on the pretext of being an exclusive dealer of Smart phone products.

How could a small business in soft drinks distribution just brush aside the more well-known and es-



tablished dealers?" Mejorada asked. Mejorada said the dealer of the

mobile phones, West Island Beverage Distributor (WIBD), was believed to be an entrepreneur who had business dearings with the Syjuco couple when they still operated Jaz Cola in the 1990s.

'Jaz Cola seems to be the common bond that linked them," said Mejorada.

pointed to "tell-rale marks" in the documents submitted by WIBD that indicated

its official receipts and charge invoice forms were printed only with this transaction in mind.

For instance, Mejorada found that the OR and charge invoices were printed only on Dec. 20, 2004, or less than a week before the award of the contract by DOTC to WIBD.

Among the documents he obtained from the Commission on Audir (COA) was a letter dated Dec. 15, 2004 and agned by Syjuco.

In this ietter, Syjuco asked the DOTC to forgo with the usual bidding process and resort to a direct purchase only with an exclusive dealer of mobile phone products.

Interestingly, the certification submirred by WIBD Issued by Even Pulion, agent coordinator of Smart Philippines, was dated Jan. 4, 2005. The transaction in which this document was supposed to be already in the files took place on Dec. 28, 2004.

Mejorada was particularly "shocked" that whoever was behand the transaction "could be so brazen and bold to forge the signature of Maquino."

Tr's not just a crime against a person that was committed here," he said. "It was also an act of grave disrespect for that person."

ROUNDUP

Village chief shot dead

LUCENA CITY-At least two unidentified gunmen shot dead Nester de Villa, 37, the village chief of Polo in Mulenay town in Quezon province Sunday morning, police said. Investigators said the victim was walking in Ajos in the nearby town of Catanauan when the suspects aboard a motorcycle appeared from behind and shot the village official several times. The victim was rushed to the nearest hospital but was declared dead on arrival from several fatal gunshof wounds. According to Supt. Renato Alba. Catanauan police thirf a "love triangle" could have been the motive in the shooting. Della Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Employee freed

COTABATO CITY-An employee of a World Bank-funded project was freed Monday night, 12 hours after he was abducted by armed men in Lango del Norte Brig. Gen Ben Dolorfino, Army's Southern Command deputy chief, said Henry de Guzman, coordinator for Kalahi-CiODS in Lanao dei Norta, was released by his captors. through the help of the More Is-



ramic L beration Front Ad Hoc Joint Action Group, a team composed of forces from the government and MILF that he ps run after law eas siements in Mindanao. Unidentified armed man abducted De Guzman in Barangay Tambo, Munal, Lanao del Norte Monday morning and brought him to the nearby village of Panggao

Jeattrey Mattem, PDI Mindagao Buresu

Silver anniversary

SAN PABLO CITY-The St. Peter's College Sem nary in this city will calebrate its silver anniversary on July 31 with the participation of both ordained alumni priests and unordained fally alumni. Mspr Alex Amente ividar general and chair of the anniversary committee, said in his Invitation letter that the activities will be highl ghted by Eucharistic esistration to be presided over by Most Rev. Leo Drona: Magr. Elias. Poblete, retired and the longest reigning rector of the seminary' and Mantia Auxillary Bishop Most Rev. Bernardino Cortez, a former priest

Power hike in Batangas

LIPA CITY-Power rates went up from P8.40 per kilowatt-hour (kwh) to P9 38 kwh in June for Balangas residents after the Balangas Electric Cooperativa il imposad additiona, charges last cana to shoulder Transco's increased transmission delivery charge and Batelec's operation costs. Zaida Masangkay, head of member consumer services and public relations department of Bataioc, said an additional P5 expanded value-added tax was also imposed on the consumers

Marion Alexander Luistro, PDI Southern Lyzon Bureau

Fire hits posh Boracay resort; no one hurt

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr. PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY-FIRE STRUCK A posh resort on Boracay Island

Tuesday night. No casualty was reported in the fire that struck the administrative building of Club Panoly, eard Insp. Kim Celisio, Bureau of

Fire Protection chief in Boracay.

Censio said the staff of the resort reported the fire at about 7 15 p.m. It started at the twostory administrative building of the resort in Sitio Punta Banga in Barangay Yapak at the northern

end of the 4-kilometer beach. Pirefighters put the fire out at 8:45 p.m., said Centrio in a tele-

phone interview with the INQUINEL.

The fire damaged more than half of the administrative building, including the receiving area and the cashier's and accounting office. None of the rooms for guests and other hotel facilities were affected.

Pire investigators believed that the fire started from the resort's peon lights billboard at the sec-

and floor of the burned building.

Censio said witnesses reported that they saw the billboard burst into flames. He said strong winds and heavy rains might have caused an electrical short circuit that grated the billboard.

The Boracay RFP is still conducting further investigation on the cause of the fire and the cust of damage.

NOUIRER Southern Luzon Editor Jun Bandayrel Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

Silent Bulusan still casts fear on villages

By Bobby Q. Labalan Casiguran. Sorsogon

OUNT BULUSAN has been silent for the past 20 days or so, but residents of Barangay Inlagadian in Casiguran, Sorsogon con tinue to fear that the volcano will explode any time

Barangay chair Tito Estonanto said most of his constituents were still anxious especially those living within the 4-km canger zone, which the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) has recommended to be resocated

Dominga Espinol a mother of seven, said she had never felt reaxed even though they had a ready returned to their home Bulusan's eruptions when stopped

"Even in our sleep, we stay alert so that we can react immediately if the voicano erupts again After what we have expenenced, we are afraid," she said.

Her family tends a small vegetable farm, which has been destroyed by ash spewed by the volсапо.

Government help

Now, her husband works as a farm hand n a small coconut land being managed by their ne ghbor and is paid P500 per week at most. Dominga sald she sometimes sought help from her parents to feed their chil-

"We just hope that the government will help us, especially in reocating us," she said.

Rose Ajas said her husband had stopped tending a vegetable farm at the slope of Butusan since they felt tremors every now and

Their farm, which is just 3 km from the volcano, is now gone.

According to Mayor Edwin Hamor, the municipal council has drawn up a relocation plan for the 76 families aving within the

danger zone, Hamor said the village's ele- pleted



PUPILS of the inlagadian Elementary School, which was closed because it is located within Mount Bulusan's permanent danger zone, get shuttle service from a dump truck provided by the Casiguran municipal government, in going to the Escuala Elementary School.

mentary school has to be relocated, too, adding that the Department of Education had already agreed to the plan.

The municipal government plans to buy a 4-hectare piece of property as a relocation sire for the affected families and as a school site. It has already identified the area outside the danger zone but near enough for the affecred families to go to their farms, he said

The local government could shoulder the cost of the lot but they need help for the housing and school building which would entail a considerable amount of money, Harnor said.

Around P4 million is needed to construct the school building, while the housing project costs P3.1 milion, computed at P40,000 per unit.

The plan is to be submitted to the Office of Civil Defense once documentation is com-

Casaguran drew P135,000 from its calamity fund during the recent eruptions.

Dominga's and Rose's stories are true to other residents of Barangay Inlagadian, as well as those of Añog and Puting-Sapa in the town of Juban.

Añog councilman Dalmacio Orejo said most of the residents in the village were now suffering the economic effects of the volcano's explosions. A majority of them rely on vegetable farming for avelshood, but their crops have been wiped out by

the ash explosions

"We appeal to our government officials to look into our situation and extend as heap, especially now that our constituents are no longer staying at the evacuation centers," Orejo said.

The Juban municipal govern-ment had put on hold its own relocation plan as the danger of the voicano had considerably waned, according to Mayor Tess Guab-Fragata.

She said possible relocation the ash explosions.

sites had already been identified, but the plan was temporardy shelved pending an advisory from Phivoics about the status of the votcano.

The municipal government will supply the farmers with different varieties of vegetable seeds so they can start planting again, she said

Añog and Puting-Sapa are outside the 4-km danger zone, but they were heavily affected during



Slain environmentalist now part of Laguna lake

By Marion Kamos Catamba City

ONG BEFORE HE DIED IN THE HANDS OF unidentified gunmen on May 27, environment activist and Bayan Muna coordinator Noel "Noli" Ca pulong had wanted his remains to be part of the fabled Laguna lake.

"It was like a death wish. He Sampurahan," he said. said he wanted to be part of the ake waters," related his widow

"Like the unruffled waters of the Laguna lake, Non was a calm person. He also used to tell me that rike the water in the lake, he was at peace in the hands of the Lord. And I know that he is now," she said.

At dawn on July 5, about 200 relatives and friends joined Doyette as they scattered the ashes of her husband over the take. It was the 40th day after Capidona was makes seems by district makings. agents on board a motorcycle in Barangay Parian in Calamba City.

For many of his comrades and loved ones, it was easy to discern why Capulong had such wish.

People's drugstore

'As an environment activist, he spent a considerable time orgamizing small fisherfolk to fight for their rights against owners of commercial fish cages in the take. He also stood for the protection of the Laguna lake," said Arman Albanilo, secretary general of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan-Southern Tagalog (Bayan-ST)

The mourners later went to Barangay Lingga to maugurate the Bonkang Bayan (People's Pharmacy) project of the Bayan Muna party-list group in Calamba.

Albarilio said Capulong had worked hard for almost a year to make sure that the project would be realized. "He knew this project would benefit thousands of poor families at the lakeshore communaties of alagga, Pallagon and

The inauguration was originally set three days after his death.

"I feel both bappy and sad," Doyette said during the program. "Despite our gnef, our family is happy that Noli's work for this project was not wasted. I know this would help a lot of people."

The P400,000 used for the 20-sq m drug store came from the Countrywide Development Fund of Bayan Muna Rep Satur Ocampo.

Calamba Mayor Joaquin Chineco donated P10,000 worth

Volunteer pharmacists

The store is open 24 bours and will be manned by four volunteer pharmacists with the total honorariums for the state of th rillo said

He said the profits would be used to acquire more medicines and other items needed.

During the program, Capulong's older brother, retired Army Brig. Gen. Homer Capulong, a veteran in the military's anti-insurgency war, said that instead of justifying an ail-our war, President Macapagal-Arroyo should by to was over the rebels and her cripes.

Another older brother, lawyer Emil Capulong, said their family would not stop until justice was

City police chief Supt. Roland. Bustos admitted that police were having a hard time solving the case. The only evidence they had were the bullets from the crime scene and a lone witness who saw the assailants, he said.



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MEGALOTTO 6/45 P14,977,549,80

'Florita' spawns heavy rains; 4 killed

2 kids missing in Baguio; no classes today in Metro, 5 other regions

AT LEAST POUR PERSONS WERE KILLED AND two children were missing as strong winds and moneoon min, enhanced by outgoing tropical storm "Florita," swept northern Lusion since Tues-

Floods garanded hundreds of commuters in Metro Manila, prompting the suspension of classes in all levels yesterday morning, Malacafrang tent home government employees, anduding those in five other regions, after lunch due to the

Malacalising announced late last night that there will be no classes roday in all levels in regions 1, 2, 3, 4, the Cordilleras and Metro Manila. However, there will be work at government of-

In Queson City, lightning strucks power line of the Light Rai. Transit-2 between the Santolan and Katipunan stations at 7:30 a.m. yesterday. Train services were haited for several hours.

A huge retaining wall collapsed in Begulo City, sending part of a street crashing onto the middle of a major thoroughfare leading to La Trinidad nown in Benguet on Tuesday night. No one was reported hurt but at least five velucies were buried in the biggest among the seven landslides reported in the city.

Florita (international code-name; Bills) intensified into a typhoon as of 5 p.m. yesterday as it continued to move toward Tarwan, packing winds of up to 130 iph near the center and gustiness of up to 150 lph. It was spotted at 330 km east-northeast of Basco, Batanes.

Pagasa raced Signal No. 3 to the Betwee and Calayan mand groups, Signal No. 2 in Cagayan, Apayao, Ilocos Norte, and Signat No. 1 at Isubela, Hugao, Mt. Province, Kainga, Abre, Bocce Sur, Benguet and La Union.

it warned against flash floods and landslides, and advised against interridend travel as heavy monsoon rams bettered Litton and Western Visayes and were expected to continue until Seturday morning.



LANDSLIDE: A parties of the retaining wall along Magazyary Avenue in the Bagulo control TOOTS SOMEWHO of heavy rains.

BAGUIO CITY LANDSLIDES San Dartos Heights Imelda Village Gultard Magazysay Ave. and Joper P Burgos Lautach Rd:

In Olongapo City in Zembeles, a women and her three sons were killed when a tree toppied by a strong wind fell on their house at about 8:45

Police said Tennie Villegus, 43 and her sons Gilbert, 4, and twins Jobert and Jeric, 2, were sleeping in their house when the tree pinned

Villegus' partner, Sormy Soluno, 47, and another child, Angelica Villeges, 6, were hurt and taken to the James L. Gordon Memorial Hospital.

Reports from the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) and the City Disaster Coordinating Council (CD-CC) in Baguto said at least two children were printing and four others were hurt.

But Meyor Braudo Yuranon, in a selevision isparview yesterday, said two people were killed in the city following continuous rains that triggered

Orios Balbawang Jt., 4, was reported musting after their house in San Carlos Heights was buried by a landshide at 10 p.m., Tuesday. His parents and two siblings were hurt and taken to the Beguto General Hospital and Medical Center.

Gracel Benito, 7, fell moo a creek in Irreida Vilinge and was swept by a strong current at 12:30 p.m., the reports said.

Buencemano Atienza, a CDCC volunteer, said the other undslides in the villages were considered "minor." Among the areas where landslides were reported were Laubach Road, Guisad Surong and San Carlos Heights.

Marcos Highway, a major route to and from the city, remained open to traffic while a tane in a section of Naguilian Road, near the public cemeters was closed to traffic. Attestua advised motorists not to take Kennon Road.

Hundreds of commutees in Marile were

stranded in the flood-prone areas of Sampaloc, Tondo, Pandacan, San Andres and Singalong. Mayor Lito Atienza suspended classes in all sevals when traffic was got worse and rains continued.

in critical areas in Maiabon City, flooding was aggravated by high tide. River walls and at least three diles collapsed and submerged Barangays Banyong, Niugan and Dampailt, and made major roads impassable, the city engineer said.

Reports from Blanche S. Rivera, Christine O. Avendaño, Tarra V Quismundo, Alcuín Papa, Tina G. Santos, DJ Yap, Nancy Carvajal and Ring T. Olchondra in Manile; Frank Cimatu, Gobleth Moulic, Peter La. Julian, Leonalo Balbin Jr., Estantislao Caldes, Cristina Arsadon and Ben Mores Ebreo, PDI Northern Luson Bureau, and Tonette Orejos, Alian Macaturo, Ansbert Josquin, Cesar VIIIa, Anselma Roque and Russell Arodoc PDI Central Lucion Deek

Unstatesmanlike statement from a statesman'

Senate President Joviso Salongs of making an "unstatesmanlike" statement when he and other opposition leaders commented that the refusal of the Cathotic Bishops Confurence of the Philippines (CBCP) to support the second impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo will push the people to another People Power revolt.

The impeachment process is still the only constitutional mode of arriving at the truth and putting a closure to all the charges being

A LAW DEAN HAS ACCUSED FORMER missed by the opposition against the Azroyo administration," said Dean Amado Valdez of the University of the East (UE) College of

> Vhidez, in a press statement, pointed out that while the CBCP had rejected supporting the second impeachment complaint, 2 stopped abort of pushing for an alternative because of its avowed adherence to legal and peaceful means of sourching for the truth.

"E was an unstatesthen-like statement from a statesman," Valdez said.

The workers group Kliusting Mayo Und percentary said it was optimized that the bishone would "eventually see the light" and

change their mind.

KMU secretary general Joel Maghmeod anid while the group respected CBCP's judgment on the impeachment process and other issues, "we also expect our Church leaders to respect the people's will on messers concerning Arroyo lendership."

In Dagupan City, Azroyo arch-critic Archbeshop Occur Cruz sead Melecufeing must

mor be lured into believing that it has the

CBCP on its side. "It you will read the CBCP's stand deeper it said the reason it decided against impeachment at this time was because of the experience sest year that the cases were merely thrown out and denied simply on the account of numbers of congressmen who were allies of President Arroyo," The Lingayer-Dugupan archbishop told reporters.

With Jerome Aring and Yolanda Socilo-Pageton, PDI Northern Lumm, Bureau

GMA efforts paying off, says Ermita

By Gil Cabacungan

SLOWLY BUT SURELY, PRESIDENT MACApagal-Arroyo's efforts to show that she is in control and that site cares about the plight of messes are finally paying off, based on the improvement, in her public satisfaction nat-

Emergive Secretary Educado Errolta said the public has finally come to realize that the President has kept her focus on running the country and kept the economy on a steady upward course despite the continuing efforts by her detractors.

They have thrown a lot of things against her-the impendament, the "Helio Gard" tape, and military adventurists—and yet the respondents felt that the President has remained an effective leader which marks a

positive reaction," said Errnits. Public sausinction with President Arroyo's performance improved stightly in the last quarter except in Metro Manila where it hit a new record low Plestalts of the latest Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey conducted from June 22 to 28 gave a net substaction rating of minus 13 to the President, Although still in negative territory over the last eight quarters, the President's rading has improved from names 30 in December 2005 and minus 25 in March 2006.

Ermits cited the various social service programs from housing to food to education. that the President did in the first few months of the year helped boost an image of a caring President. He noted that the country has remained stable despite the destabilization attempo showed her leadership skills in a crisis

aleuscion. Press Secretary Ignacio Bunys and that "whatever the polls say, they will always be a signal for the administration to work harder to advance the weights of the people to a higher level."

Ex-journalist denies link to Feb. 24 coup

By Marganit C. Ortiz

THE PORMER JOURNALIST ACCUSED OF acting as a bridge between former Executive Secretary Occar Orbos and Brig. Gen. Denilo Lim yesterday denied involvement in the failed Peb. 24 coup plot

Cecilio Azilio, who was earlier subposneed by the National Bureau of Investigation. (NBI) in relation to its continuing probe on the piot, arrived at the bureau around 11 s.m. and unbestatingly talked to reporter

Arilio said he only talked to Orbos, Lim and Sen. Punitio Lacson as sources for a new book he is currently writing.

"I admit having interviewed them for my book when I heard about rumors regarding the establishment of a transition council," Az-

Mo said. Artilo and that Orbos and Lacson told him. that they did not believe in transition govern-

The former journalist also denied that he offered cabinet positions in the said council. Azilio stressed, "Ik does not make sense

(because) I do not have the stature or the suthoracy to do that."

Erap has a new neighbor in Tanay

By Dona Z. Pazzibugun

THERE WILL BE NO "MEET THE NEIGHbot" visits between these two prominent anti-Arroyo figures.

Brig. Gen. Denilo Lim, who was sucked as chief of the eike Scout Rangers for his alleged involvement in the failed coun plot last February cannot receive just anyone wishing to visit him at the Army's 2nd Infantry Division headquerters in Camp Capingin, Tanay, Rissl.

Lim is being detained in the facility, estensively renovated recently to beef up its maximum-security features, that used to hold pusted President Estrada before the inter was allowed in 2004 to enjoy an unprecedented "house arrest" in his levish rest house scross the Army camp while being tried for plunder

They're a stone's throw away from each other," remarked one officer.

Lim, who had been restricted to quarners in Port Bonifacio sinos Feb. 24, was suddenly transferred to the Tarney facility after attending a hearing at the National

Bureau of Investigation on Monday night. Azmy spokesperson Lt. Col. Barrolome Bucarro arressed that the only ones to be allowed to visit Lim were his "immediate. family lewyers, doesors and religious ad-



Estrada and Lim are not prrangers to each.

A few days after the coup plot wer aborred on Feb. 24-charing which Lim was supposed so lead the military in a mass withdrawal of support from President Macapagai-Ar-1000 Malacaliang revealed that Estrada's

Alay at Xawel Pilipino Poundation had doneted P4 million to the Scout Rangers

In 2005. The Palace also revenied that the Parrada foundation donated P3 million to the Marine Corps, which was also implicated in the Feb. 24 plot, and P1 million ato the families of the Magdalo soldiers.



METRO

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil.

Text as year feedback, inquirer met name/sgs/city/message to 2297 (Slobe) or 263 (Smert) — 6-mail: pr_metro@inquires.com.ph

[WHAT'S INSIDE

□ BPS official killed by 3 men in Makati City /A18

colonel loses
P150,000 to car
thieves /A18

Solon asks
Congress to
probe PNU
president
controversy
/A18

sign pact strengthening drive vs illegal recruiters /A18

Security tightened at MRT, LRT

Elite force deployed to protect commuters

By Terra V. Quismundo

HOLRS AFTER SEVEN BOMBS went off in a busy ral way system in India, killing over 150 people, the National Capital Region Police Office yesterday stepped up security measures in Metro Manilla's mass transport systems.

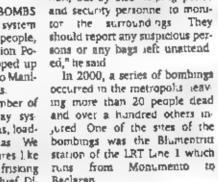
"We increased the number of poncemen in our railway systems, including a stations, loading and unloading areas. We tightened security measures like the checking of bags and frisking of commuters," NCRPO chief, Director Vidal Queros,

phone interview.
Querol said some
200 members of the
NCRPO Regional
Special Action Unit,
the ponce district's
eite fighting force,
would be fielded to
the different stations
of the Metro Rail
Transit system and
the Light Rai, Transit
Lines 1 and 2

told the inquirer in a

At the same time, Querol called on the public to help authorkies spot suspicious-looking persons or packages

"We ask the cooperation of commuters, not only by



subjecting themse yes to inspec-

tion, but by also he ping police



ABOUT 200 policemen will be closely watching the Metro Rail Transit and Light Rail Transit Lines I and 2 to the part possible bornic attacks.

Pay up, drivers warned

By Tarra V. Quismundo

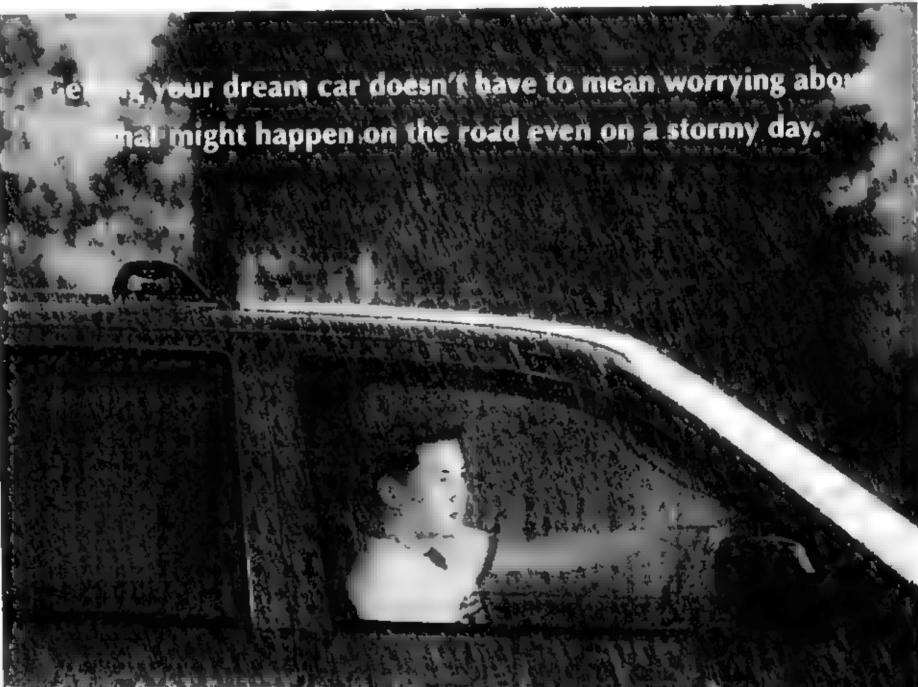
THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority (MMDA) yesterday announced that it would deploy an "elite group" of traffic enforcers along Edsa to go after hundreds of "dangerous" public utility buses (PUBs) and their drivers.

Some 20 members of Task Force Hunter, from the MMDA's Traffic Enforcement Group (TEG), will start hunting down beginning this month PUBs and drivers with unsettled traffic violations that date back to January.

"No one is above
the law. We will
throw the book at
these dangerous PUV
(public utility vehicle) drivers," MMDA
Traffic Operations
Center Executive Director Angelito

on the watch list of Task Rorce Hunter are 354 buses that continue to ply roads in the metropolis despite outstanding traffic violations. Also being sough, are 520 him drivers who remain on the road although their licenses and been suspended for driving infractions.

The crackdown is aimed at forcing bus companies to pay their traffic violations dues. The MM-DA has been waging a drive against buses that operate diegally on Edsa



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Or call the shero that the at 7522274.



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SOLITARY WATCH

A consider sits on the deserted Saywalk strip on Roces Boulevard, with only huge waves to keep him company. Classes were suspended in the metropolis yesterday due to heavy rains and strong winds.

Makati City DPS investigator gunned down

By Tarra V. Quismundo

HOLDING P7.50 IN LOOSE change, public safety officer Felicisimo Enriquez was about to take a jeepney to work at a few minutes past 7 a.m. yesterday, umid heavy rains.

But the 43-year-old investigator for the Makati Department of Public Services (DPS) never

made it to his office. As he wanted for a ride on A. P. Reyes Street in Barangay Tejeros,

Makati City near the Sta. Ana racetrack, three unidentified men casuatly walked up to him and shot him several times in the

Police said Enriques was killed

The assailants then fled on foot, seaving behind three empty shells from a 45-cal pistol.

"He had just alignted from a tricycle he had taken from his house to catch a ride to his office. The gunmen really waited for

him on that street," said Senior Insp. Gary Reyes, chief of the Makati Police Criminal Investigation Section, citing initial police

Enriquez, a resident of H. Santos Street in Barangay Carmona, was on his way to the DPS headquarters on Ayala Avenue Extension, investigators said

"We are still checking if he had enemies. Hopefully by tomorrow, we could already establish the motive," Reyes told the Inquirer.

"But based on our mutau information, it could be a personal matter because his colleagues said he had no work-related problems," he added

Police said they already have leads on the identity of the suspects but Reyes did not give details for the meantime.

"We are already developing an angle and we are already looking at some persons who could be involved in the killing," he told the

Congress probe on PNU sought

A PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVE has asked Congress to investigate the appointment of awyer Lutgardo Barbo as president of the state-run Philippine Normal University (PNU)

Rep. Teodoro Casiño also urged Congress, through the House committee on higher and technica, education, to look into the subsequent resignation of PNU administrative officials against Barbo's appointment. There is a need for Congress

to immediately address the PNU controversy and also take steps toward repealing or amending the erroneous Higher Education Modernization Act (Republic Act 8292) in order to undertake resevant reforms for the betterment of the Philippine education system," the solon said. He added that the PNU con-

troversy "seems to provide a clear example of how political patronage is winning over integrity and scholarship in the

'And remedies are not forthcoming from the government to tackle this problem," Casiño said.

The militant congressman likewise cited the various issues raised by those opposed to the PNU Board of Regents' (BOR) decision to appoint Barbo, including perceived loopholes in RA 8292—the aw governing state universities and colleges—particularly the composition of the governing boards which he claimed is being used by politicians to turn the academe into a huge playing field for patronage poli-

Another party-list representa-



REP. TEDDY Casino



portedly planning to file a separate resolution calling for an inquiry in aid of legislation, into Barbo's appointment in her resolution, Rosales said

tive, Loretta Rosales, is also re-

there was an urgent need to review the criteria and process used by the BOR's search committee in the selection of the president to ensure that the decision would be fair, objective and in the best interest of the university.

DID YOU KNOW

Did you know that vendors at the Marikina Public Market have a dress code?

THE MAR KINA Council passed

in 1997 Ordinance No. 239 lmposing a dress code on market vendors in the city, prohibiting them from wearing shorts or a sando (sienveless undershirt). City officials said the ordinance was in line with their cleaniness. drive. The program was deemed successful, that is why m 2000, the council amended the ordinance to include all business establishments in PDI Repertit

METROBRIEFS

NBI, POEA team-up

THE NUMBER of Regal recruitment cases has more than doubled in the past six months as compared to the same period last year according to the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) POEA Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baidos said hard times may have reautted in the 250 percent tilke in complaints from victims of illegal recruitment during the first half of 2006. To help address the problem, officials of the POEA and the NBI yesterday signed a memorandum of agreement to facilitate the growing number of complaints against illegal recruiters. "The POEA would now provide us with the technical assistance and relevant data to expedite our investigation and evantual prosecution of the suspects." NBI Deputy Director for Special regestipation Services Victor Bessat said Margaux C. Ortic

Thieves rob colonel

THIEVES broke into the van of a po-Not colonel in the pay parking stee beside the Podlum Mail in Mandatuyong City on Tuesday morning, carting away a travelling bag containing P150,000 in cash. Senior Supt. Manolito Labador, assigned at the Philippine National Police Directorate for Operation in Camp Grame, left his isuzu Big Horn in the parking lot at about 10:30 a.m., police said He went to a coffee shop at the mass but when he returned minutes later. the back door of the van was already open and his bag was missing. Apart from the cash, his bag also contained his passport which had been issued only that morning a plane ticket and clothes, including at least five Lacoste shirts. Police said Labador was scheduled to leave for Indonesia.

Edwar G. Tandoc Jr.

'Kawawa naman the President'

THE BANNER STORY OF THE Diquirer yesterday saying that Armed Porces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga waited nearly two hours before he decided against the proposal to withdraw support from President Macapagal-Arroyo did not surprise this

I heard from Palace sources that Senga was recommended for appointment as AFP chief by Cabmet officials who had caused for the resignation of Ms Arroyo last year at the height of the "Heilo Gard" scandal . The renegade officials became known as "Hyart

The President was inclined to appoint Navy chief Vice Adm. Ernesto de Leon as AFP chief of staff, I personally knew this for a mer Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Sohman, who were rooting Armed Porces chief of staff. for Senga.

Besides, Senga was a special

friend of the wife of one of those allegedly behind the "GMA Rengn" movement. His closeness to the lady dates back to his stint as commander of the North Luxon Command. Against this back drop, now you know why Senga

Senga, however, denier he raciliated in his support for his Commander in chief. But two hours is a long, long time for one to decide at a very critical moment whether or not to stand by his President or lead rebellious soldiers against her

If Senge didn't vaciliate, kt would have only taken him seconds to make that momentous decision and order the leaders of the rebellious fact. But she deferred to her fa ed on the spot. Obviously, the vored Cabinet officials, like for- President made the wrong choice when she named Senga

"Kawawa naman the Presi



dent," as colegiales would say about Ms Arroyo being surround ed by people who don't respect her or who would seave her during a crisis

Another cabinet official who could not be reaed upon by Mr Az royo is her defense secretary, Aveling Cruz who was nowhere to be found during the standoff at the Marine headquarters in Fort Borufacio. A Palace source said the President was trying to reach Cruz through his cellular phone so she could order hun to proceed to Fort Bonifacio during the crucial moments. But Cruz allegedly refused to answer the President's call and ignored her text messages. Cruzcame out only after the Bonifacio

crists had been resolved.

My friend and compadre, Pelipe "Philip" Cruz Jr., demes the allegation of former Ambassador Roy Señeres that he was one of those involved in the plot to oust GMA on Feb. 24. Cruz said that Señeres came

has residence unanvited when he and Iñigo Zobel were having a business meeting. Gruz and Zobel are partners in a restaurant venture

"He (Señeres) told us he had on his ceil phone a recording of what he claumed to be an originai copy of the Garci tape. We agreed that we would listen to the recording so we could compare it with the other tapes," Cruz said.

The construction magnate said Señeres then told them about his plan to form a transition government. He was also coliciting financial support from us, Crux added. "We told

him (Señeres) we would never allow anybody to use us against the government," Cruz said.

Chito Orbeta and Dolly Domingo, jamitor and clerk at the Buread of Customs, respectively, are not your ordinary blue collar workers Orbeta and Domingo, assigned

at the bureau's valuation and classification division, altegedly own big houses at the City Homes Village in Biñan, Laguna, Both of them reportedly own luxury vehi-

Their unexplained wealth was featured in a lifestyle check conducted by "Imbestigador," a privare eve show on GMA 7

The Office of the Ombudsman investigated the luxurious lifestytes of the two customs emplayees, but nothing has come out of it

The question is, how could a Soor cleaner and a paper pusher become so rich?

Tiger, the puppy, finds new home—and hopefully, a new nose

By Marlet D. Seletar Contributor

TIGER, A FOUR-MONTH-OLD dog, lost part of his nose when he was run over by a tricycle in Sampaloc Ugong, Valenzuesa City last

A man who felt uncomfortable looking at the flap of skin hang ing loosely from the puppy's face then cut it off, completely exposing Tiger's postrils

Marian Barola, a neighbor, took pity on the dog and sierted

the Anima. Rescue Team of the Philippine Animal Welfare Soci-

Dr. Jeffrey Chue, PAWS Animal Rehabilitation Center (PARC) shelter manager, said he was shocked when he saw Tiger. He knew the pup needed to be treated right away but first, he had to convince its owner to give up the dog, "If an animal to be rescued has an owner, we cannot just march the dog away even if it is for the animal's welfare," Chua

It was not un easy task. Chua said he spent hours talking with Tiger's owner. "The owner didn't want to give him away," Chua paul, After much convincing, Tiger's owner finally agreed to give up the dog and turn him over

Tiger, who had been without a nose with two weeks, was immediately brought to the Animal House in Aurora Boulevard where he was given first aid and anubiotics.

Only recently, he was adopted



by a woman who, upon seeing the dog, immediately expressed a desire to care for him. She also started looking for a doctor who could give him an artificial nose

Dr. Nielsen Donato of Vets In Practice in Mandahiyong, who has been practicing for 16 years was tapped for the job. The instant Donato saw Tiger, he knew it would be a tough case. "He lost his nose but the wound had not healed," he said. "But because Tiger was obviously determined to survive, I took up the challenge that I could do something about his condition," Donato said.

The doctor felt up to the job since he had done different prosthetic procedures in the past, in cluding creating an artificia, beak for a Philippine Rufous Hornbill and a Black Palm Cockatoo. He had also installed titamum-made upper and lower canines on a **JANUAR**

"A team of doctors composed of vetermanans, a dentust, a dental technician, and an oro facul prosthetic technician will assist in the surgery," Donato said. "Four of them are Fiapinos, one is American, and the other is Japanese." At the moment, however, putting on a permanent artificial nose would have to wait since Tiger is still growing

After much deliberation, the ream decided to wait until the pup was one year-old. Donato said that he does not expect a lot of problems to crop up white Tiger awaits the operation.

Despite his missing nose, however, Tiger is getting along Just fine, his sense of smell fully functional. According to Tiger's new owner, the dog is very playful and affectionate, following her all the time around the house. "He seems to know who genuinely cares for him," she said.



CAMPUS TOUR The Gandang Palmolive camput

tour took off recently at the Jose Fabella Memorial High School in Mandakryong City with Mandakiyong Mayor Neptall Gonzales and wife Quennie (right and second from right, respectively) as special guests. The grooming and personality seminars were designed for high school students in more than 100 schools metrowide and nationwide. Also in photo are Metro Manila Mayor Spouses Foundation president Mayor Marides Fernando, Cesar Meio, Cotgate Palmolive Philippines inc. general manager, and Palmoiive Naturals endorser CONTRIBUTED (NOTO Ricky Reyes.



CALOUGAN CITY

Langiden

Tubo-Luna

MTC Bantay MTC Sto Domingo

MTC Languagilleng tet MCTC Pidigen-Sen Quintin-

3rd MCTC Piter-Villaviciose-Sen

4th MCTC Manaba-Boliney-

Degloman 6th MCTG Le Paz-Legayan

7th MCTC Dolores-San Juan ILOGOS NORTE

8th MCTC Paony-Currings LOCOS SUR

3rd MCTC Caceyan-Sta. Cetalina 4th MCTC Narvecan-Negbukel-

5th MCTC Sta Meda-Burgos

7th MCTC Banayoyo-Lidhiddag-

San Emilio 8th MCTC Gallmuyod-Selcedo

10th MCTC Cervantes-Outnot 11th MCTC Sta. Cruz-Sta. Lucie

12th MCTC Tagudin-Suyo 13th MCTC Allem-Sugpon

1st MCTC Barlig-Sadenge

4th MGTC Nationin-Paracells. PANGASINAN

MTC Urringan MTCC Br. 1, Degupen Cky 1st MCTC Burgos-Mebini-Deroil 3rd MCTC Aguitar-Bugallo 5th MCTC Urbiztondo-Bassula

8th MCTC Alcate-Bautista 1001 MCTC Nativided-San

MTC Sebteng 1st MCTC Basco-Mahatao

1st MCTC Claveria-Ste Prezedesi 2nd MCTC Sanchez-Minn-

8th MCTC Apam-Cagayan (Brs. 1

2nd MCTC Lemut-Klangar-Tinoc

4th MCTC Maconscon-Divitecan 7th MCTG Palanan-Dinapigul

Pampiona 3rd MCTC Allacapen-Lasarn

1st MCTC Banane-Hunoduse

3rd MCTC Polla-Aguinaldo-

Mayaqyan (Mayoyan) 4th MCTC Lagawo-Hangon

8th MCTC Angedanan-See

12th MCTC Mailig-Quezon

14th MCTC Ramon-San Bidro 15th MCTC Jones-San Agustin

MTC Lubusgan 1st MCTC Tinglayas-Tenudan 4th MCTC Lune-Pudtol

5th MCTC Flore-Sta. Marcels 8th MCTC Kabuguo-Control-

3rd MCTC Villa Verde-Quezon

MTC Dingalate Est MCTC Casiguran-Dilateg-

2nd MCTC Mana Awrens-

4th MCTC Anteo-Site. For

ISABELA RTC Br 18, Ragan

Guillesto

KALINGA APAYAD

Calan

MTC Ambagino MTC Bambang

MTC Kasibu

МТС Кауара

MTC Diffee

REGION III

NUEVA YIZCAYA

MTC Abulog MTC Camalaniugan

EAUMONI

MTG Luna

MTC Anda

REGION II

RATAMES

MTC Ilbaynt

CAGAYAN

MTC Rizal

MTC Buguey

1 2)

MTC Santol

MTC Naguillen

MT PROVINCE

MTC Baluncao

MTC Mangatarem

6th MCTC Santrago- 6th

5th MCTC Sal-lapedan-Buckes-

RTC Br. 125

REGION 1

MTC Bucay

Supreme Court of the Philippines Indicial and Bar Council

Manila

Pursuant to Section 1, Rule 7 of the Rules of the Judicial and Bay Council (JBC-009), as amended, the public is hereby invited to the panel interview of the following applicants for the position of DEPUTY OMBUDSMAN FOR MINDANAO, at the Division Session Hell Ground Fix. New Supreme Court

Thursday, July 27, 2006, 9:00 u.m. - 12:00 noon

ARANCON, MARIA CORAZON A.

AVILA, EL SEBIO M.

DARAY MARIVIC T.

BENDIGO, RAUL B. CHIONGSON ROBERTO S.

ELMAN, RODOLFO M. MACABANDO, PACA-AMBUNG C.

MONTEROSO, HUMPHREY T. SIPACO, ALBERTO JR. B.

Thursday, July 27, 2008, 2:00 p.m. . 5:00 p.m.

The four other applicants APOSTOL, Palagia S., ESPAROL, Jose Jr. M., LANTORIA, Gerardo Jr. B., and SIAYI/GCO, Manuel Oj. have already been Interviewed by the JBC on June 16, 2006

The Judicial and Sar Council also announces that the following are applicants for different vacant judgeship positions.

REGIONAL TRIAL COURT (FTC): REGION VIII) - ALLEN, NORTHERN SAMAR: (81-23) CAMPOMANÉS, Marilyn Rongusia: CLEMENS, Myrna Molinias; EBDANE, Romes Sr P. ITAO Romes D. LLUZ .. sopolds G. MABUTIN: Odelon S., QUILANTANG, Romes A., TANDICO Filamon Jr A. TORREVILLAS. Manual F. Jr. (REGION 0) - PAGADIAN CITY, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR: (Br. 22) CANDA, Alejandro T., DAYOT, Exequiel M. III; POLOYAPOY, Treendo

MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN CITIES (INTCC): [REGION I) - BAGUIQ CITY; (Br. 1) BACULI, Rone B.

MUNICIPAL TISAL COURT INTO: REGION VIII) - LEYTE, LEYTE, DAPULA, Rodrigo O., FORTUNA, Leah Tiozon; LIM. Dhida Labiran; MONTEJO, Manuel Jr. B., POSION, Mansa Renomeron, TROCINO, Anto Menzon

MUNICIPAL CRECUIT TRIAL COURT MICTO: (REGION VI) - <u>DUMALAG-TAPAZ CAPIZ</u> BAGUIO Sebestino A., BARRIOS, Bierventido Jr. P., CATALAN, Vicente Albes R. STA, ANA, Witte T. (REGION XI) - MANTICAO-MAAWAN-LUGAIT MISAMIS ORIENTAL. ARROYO Renato T., DAING. Celendo N. DAJAO Samson N., QUINONES, Leonor Surraget, RAAGAS Edmando V., ROSALES, Vincent Filomeno B., RUGAY Braulio I., Jr. (REGION XII) -BALOHPANTAR-PANTAO RACAT, LANGO DEL NORTE, EDRES, Anuar A., MACUMBAL, Arassad M., MARANGIT, Sittle Gumarre, PANGCATAN, Hearnin Itao: PRETE, Matera Rovera <u>DITSAAN-RAMAIN-BUBONG, LANAO DEL SUR:</u> PIMPING, Mahadi M

The public may submit any serom complaint, written report, or opposition against any of the aforesaid applicants not later than JULY 24, 2905 to the JBC Secretariat

C. The JBC is now accepting applications for judicial positions in the following courts

Letters reveal mysteries of Einstein's love affairs

A FILE picture taken Feb. 10, 1933 shows Albert Einstein and his

second wife Elsa at El Mirador Hotel in a California desert resort.

JERUSALEM—ALBERT stein had half a dozen girlfriends and told his wife they showered him with "unwanted" affection, according to letters released on Monday that shed light on his extra-marital affairs. The wild-haired Jewish-Ger-

man scientist, renowned for his theory of relativity, spent little time at home. He lectured in Europe and in the United States, where he died in 1955 at age 76. But Einstein wrote hundreds of recters to his family.

Previous-released letters suggested his marriage in 1903 to his first wife Mileva Maric, mother of his two sons, was miserable. They divorced in 1919 and he soon married his cousin, Risa. He cheated on her with his secretary, Betty Neumann.

In the new volume of setters released on Monday by Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Einstein described about six women with whom he spent time with and recerved gifts from while being married to Elsa.

In the early 1980s, Elsa's daughter, Margot, gave almost 1,400 letters to Hebrew University, which Einstein helped found.

But Margot directed that the letters not be released publicly until 20 years after her death. She died on July 8, 1986.

Some of the women identified by Einstein include Estella, Ethel, Toni, and his "Russian spy lover," Margarita. Others are referred to only by initials, like M. and L.

(to England) and her chasing after me is getting out of control," he wrote in a letter to Margot in 1931 "Out of all the dames, I am in fact attached only to Ms L.,

Plot to harm Thaksin probed

so hired an additional 10 guards to traff his family.

seized the Somali capital last month.

30 Taliban killed in Afghanistan

It was not immediately clear if that included the commander.

EIN- decent." In another post to Margot, Einstein asked his stepdaughter to pass on "a little letter for Margarita, to avoid providing curious eyes with tidbits." The new batch of letters for the first time included replies from Einstem's family, Hanoch Gutfreund, chair of the Albert Einstein Worldwide Exhibition at Hebrew University said

This, he told reporters, helped shatter myths that the Nobel Prize-winning scientist was always cold towards his family.

"In these letters he acts with much greater friendship and understanding to Mileva and his cons," Gutfeund said.

Gutfeund said that though Einstem's later marriage to Elsa was best described as a "marriage of convenience," he wrote to her almost every day, describing, among other things, his experiences touring and lecturing in

"Soon I'll be fed up with the (theory of) relativity," Einstein wrote in a postcard to Elsa in 1921. "Even such a thing fades away when one is too involved with it."

Einstein lived and studied in the 1930's at Oxford, where be hid from the Nazus. A German colleague, he said in a letter to Else, had told him "to not even come near the German border because the rage against me is out of control.

In the same letter, which he wrote in 1933, less than a decade "It is true that M. followed me before the start of World War II and the Nazi Holocaust, Einstein writes: "One fears everywhere the compension of the expelled brainy Jews. We are even more burdened by our strength than by who is absolutely harmless and our weakness."

WORLDBRIEFS

BANGKOK—That authorities were investigating reports of a plot to "hazm"

ports of a plot to harm the prime minister two weeks ago, and we are check-

ing whether the reports are true," Jumpol Manmai, the head of the National

Intelligence Agency told The Associated Press. He did not provide other de-

talls. Thaksin, who normally has 12 hodyguards, was recently provided an

additional 30 security agents from the National Security Center. Thaksin ai-

KANDAHAR-Afghan and coalition security forces involved in a massive

anti-Taliban operation killed 30 more rebels on Tuesday as US Defense Sec-

retary Donald Rumsfeld visited the country. The early morning air strike in

clates who had "actively planned and carried out attacks on Alghan and

Somali warlord surrenders to Islamists

southern Helmand province was targeted at a Taliban commander and asso-

cognition forces," a coalition spokesperson told AFP it "resulted in the esti-

mated death of at least 30 Taliban fighters," Captain Julie Roberge told AFP

MOGADISHU--One of Mogadishu's last warlords holding out against pow-

erful Islamists surrandered after losing most of his territory in two days of

man loval to warford Abdi Awale Caybdild told Reuters. Caybdild is the last

of an alliance of US-backed warfords who called themselves an anti-terror-

Saddam trial adjourned for 2 weeks

but said the lawyers have a duty to defend their clients.

mise) rather than resort to force," he added.

Iraq PM shrugs off civil war fears

ism group. He kept fighting after the islamists routed the other warlords and

BAGHDAD—The judge called a two-week recess in the trial of Saddam Hussain on Tuesday, hoping to end a boycott of the trial by the former tracillead-

ar and his lawyers, but he warned that if they won't come back, court-ap-

pointed lawyers will make Saddam's closing arguments. The lawyers for

Saddam and three top co-defendants in the case announced a day earlier they would not appear unless the court met a list of demands, including

greater security after the staying of one of their colleagues last month. Chief Judge Reput Abdel Rahman made no sign he would meet the conditions.

BAGHDAD -- Prime Minister Nun al-Mallic shrugged off fears that traq was

plunging into a civil war even as more than 40 people were ideed on Tuesday, many of them in raging sectarian bloodshed. "I don't see the country

falling into a civil war despite the regrettable activities of certain people who ignore that trag is united," Mailid told reporters in the Kurdish city of Arbit in

the north of the country. "The security services are still in control of the situ-

atton and we would like to see matters move towards political (compro-

fighting that killed more than 140 people, militia sources said on Tuesday. "It has become necessary to surrander and give peace a chance," a militia-

the prime minister the intelligence chief said Wednesday, as security around Thaksin Shinawatra was significantly increased. "There were re-

Dipaculao 3rd MCTC Baler-San Luis BATAAN MTC Marivoles 2nd MCTC Orani-Samel 3rd MCTC Onon-Pilar 4th MCTC Bagec-Morong NUFVA ECIJA MTC Allaga MTC Bongebon MTC Gen. Tanks MTC Gulmbe. MTC Jaen

MTC Luped MYC Panisbengen MTC San Amonio MTC Sto. Domingo MTC Taluglog 2nd MCTC Gen. M. Natividad-3rd MCTC Laur-Gabaidon 4th MCTC Cabiao-San Isidro PAMPANGA

2nd MCTC Mexico-San Lois ZAMBALES MTC Sotolen-Cabengan REGION IV

CAVITE MTC Noveleta LAGUNA MTC Alaminos 1st MCTC Luisiana-Cavinh 2nd MCTC Magdalona-Life-Majayjay 3rd MCTC Negcarlan-Rizel 4th MCTC Lumban-Kalayaan

6th MCTC Smilitan-Famy 7th MCTC Sta Marta-Matitlac MARINDUQUE RTC Br 38 Soac MTC Gasan MTC Mogpog MTC Tormos MINDORO OCCIDENTAL MTC San Jose MTC Sta Cruz MTC Sablayan

1st MCTC Abra de Rog-Paluan 2nd MCTC Lubeng-Lood 3rd MCTC Magnaysay-Rizal-Caintean PALAMAN MTC Culion 2nd MCTC Coron-Bustange

and MCTC El Nido-Gaudencio C. 4th MCTC Taylay-San Vicente 5th MCTC Aracel-Dumento. 7th MCTC Quezon-Balabac-

Bit MCTC Brooks's Point-

Española MTC Calauno MTC Delores MTC General Luna MTC Gumayangan MTC Mecalelon MTC Mauban MTC Mulanay

MTC Pagbileo M7C Real MTC Tackswaven MTC Uresan

4th MCTC Infenta-Gen. Neiter 5th MCTC Politio-Panukutan 6th MCTC Surdeos-Jomaho Patramonoan

7th MCTC Alimonen-Planidel 8th MCTC Alabet-Quezon-Perez 9th MCTC SAn Narciso-

10th MCTC See Francisco-Sen Andres ROMBLOW 1st MCTC San Andres-Calairava 2nd MCTC Corcuers-Corcepcion-

Banton 3rd MCTC Loop-Alcantara-Sta. Fe-Sen Jose 6th MCEC San Agustin-Imelde

RE-GION V ALBAY MTC Pro Duran MTC Repu-Repu RTC Br 38 Deet MTC Peracale MTC Jose Panganiban 1st MCTC Capelonga-Sta. Elena 14GTC Imaide-San Victoria-San Lorenzo

CAYANDUANES 2nd MCTC Baras-Gigmoto 3rd MCTC Panganiben-Vigit-Bagamanoc 4th MCTC Penden-Caramoras

MTC Claverin

3rd MCTC San Fernando-Betuari 4th MCTC Placer-Cawayan-Esperanza SORSOGON

2nd MCTC Mandaon-Balud

MTC Bulan MTC Denso 2nd MCTC Bulusan-Barcelone and MCTC Matnog-Sta Magdelena

REGION VI ANTIONE 6th MCTC Liberted-Celuya ILORO MCTC Sam-Aluy REGROS OCCIDENTAL MTC Kabangkalan 1st MCTC Catalizava-Toborto MTCC S.S. San Carlos City

REGION VII CEBU 11th MCTC Melabuyoc-Ginatian-Alegna 12th MCTC Moslboal-Badian-Alcantara

5th MCTC Trinklad-San Miguel-Bian Joido 8th MCTC Libery-Carlos P Garola 7th MCTC Aircia-Ambina 8th MCTC Cundiley-Ande 9th MCTC Guindulman-Duero 15th MCTC Bilar Seville 16th MCTC Carmen-Saluan 17th MCTC Sterra Bullones-Pilar 20th MCTC Catigoran-San Indro

REGION VIII EASTERN SAMAR 1st MCTC San Policerpio-Arteche 4th MCTC Sen Juttan-Suial МТС Афията NORTHERN SAMAR MTC Bobon MTC Labang MTC Palapag MCTC Pembujan-Silvino

Lubos 9th MCTC Capul-San Vicente SOUTHERN LEYTE MTC San Francisco MTCC Maasin City 1st MCTC Macrohon-Padre

Burges 2nd MCTC Multitug-Tornea Oppus
7th MCTC Pustuyan-San Ricardo WESTERN SAMAR Tegapul-an 2nd MCTC Sta Margarite-

Tarangnan-Pagsanjan

REGION DO SULU MTC Jolo 1st District Jolo tel MCTC Indanan-Parang-Malmbung-Arolas Tulawie

(Tahpao) 2nd MCTC Patikul-Panamao-Marungas-Panguntaran-New

3rd MCTC Luck-Kelmoslen Kalsang 4th MCTC Siasi-Tapui-Lugus Pandamt-Pala Tonokii

TAWFTAWI RTC 8: 26 Sapa-Sapa 1st MCTC Simunol-Balimbing-Panglima Sugala 2nd MCTC Snangkar-Sibutu

3rd MCTC Tandu Bas-South Ublen-Saps-Sapa 4th MCTC Mapun-Turtle Islands 5th MCTC Bengso-Languyan

ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE MTC Sibuco 4th MCTC Stocon-Bellgulan-

Straway 6th MCTC Labason-Gutatec ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR RTC Br 19 Pagadian City MTC Medicaturi Teluksangay MTC Tambuing 8th MCTC Sen Miguel-Dinas

Lapuyan 7th MCTC Dimateling-Tables Priogo 9th MCTC Labengen-Tuluran

10th MCTC Remon Magsaysay-Midselip-Sommol 11th MCTC Mahayag-Demangag-

13th MCTC Kumalarang-Lake Wood-Bayog

15th MCTC Margo sa Tubig-Vicencio Sagus

ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY 2nd MCTC Nege-Titey 3rd MCTC Kebaselon-Stay-Payer 4th MCTC Olutanga-Mabuhay Yalusen 12th MC TC Malangas-Imelde-

Diplatian **REGION X** AGUSAN DEL NORTE RTC Br 34, Cabadbaran tal MCTC Magallanes-La Nieves

3rd MCTC vabongs-Kitchs/so 4th MCTC Cabadbaran-Remedios T Romunidez AGUSAN DEL SUR RTC Br. 7, Bayugan MTC Prosperided 1st MCTC San Francisco-

Bunawan-Rosano 2nd MCTC Trento-Sta. Josefe-Veruela 3rd MCTG Loreto-La Paz

4th MCTC Esperenza-Sen Lula-Talacogon MTC Sen Fernando 4th MCTC Maramag-Kalifengen-

Pangantucan 5th MCTC Don Carlos-Dangesgen-Kiteotao 6th MCTC Kitewe-Damulog-Kad ngilan MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL

MTC Plander 1st MCTC Celembe-Ballangeo 2nd MCTC Sepang Dalage Сопсерское MISAMIS OFIENTAL MTCC S S Gingoog City MTC Medina DZAMIZ CITY

SURIGAD DEL KORTE 7th MCTG Lareto-Libjo-Tubajon 8th MCTC Depa-Spectra 10th MCTC Del Carmen-San isidro-San Benito 11th MCTC Sta Monica-Burgos

COMPOSTELA VALLEY MTC Maragusan 1st MCTC Compostata-New

4th MCTC Mabini-Pantuken DAVAO DEL SUR 4th MCTC Maletag-Sulop DAVAD DEL NORTE MTCC Tagum City NORTH COTABATO 3rd MCTC Kabagan-Carmen-Bangajar

5th MCTC Pigkawayan-Alamada DAVAO ORIENTAL MTC Begange 1st MCTC Catest-Boston 2nd MCTC Carega-Manay-Tarragona SOUTH COTABATO

1st MCTC Norsta Tboli-Sto Nife SURIGAD DEL SUR 1st MCTC Canaltan-Carrascal 3rd MCTC Tago San Miguel 7th MCTC Hinstean Tagbina REGION XII

LANAO DEL NORTE MTC Sulten Naga Ornaporo Bit MCTC Sapad-Nurungan LANAG DEL SUR 12th SCC Wee MTC Calanogas 3rd MCTC Ganessi-Mademba-

Pegsyawer 4th MCTC Malabeng-Belabegen-Sulten Gernander Sth MCTC Bayang-Tuburan-Biridayan-Butig-Lumbatan-Biridayan-Butig-Lumbatan-Marogong-Lumbayanagui MAGUINDANAO

MTC Kabumulan MTC Shariff Agusk 3rd MCTC Ampaluan-Sullan Sa Barongis 4.h MCTC Pagalungan-Buluan-

Datu Paglas 5th MCTC Jor-South Upi SULTAN KUDARAT MTCC Tecurong 5 S. Tecurong City
MTC Perimbang
1st MCTC Lebak-Kalamansig
2nd MCTC Letayan-Pres. Qurino

Lambayong 4th MCTC Bagumbayan-Esperanza 5th Shad's District-8

5th SCC Maganoy Maguindanao 13th SCC Pikit, North Colabato

Applications for all the above courts must be filed not later than September 14, 2006, addressed to Secretariat, 2nd Fir. Centennial Bidg. Supreme Court, Padre Feure St., Manila (Tel. No. 552-9512 Fex No. 552-9598).

Application Later/Recommendation Latter with conforms of the recommended Personal Oata Sheet (JBC Form t down-loadable from the JBC Website (http://jbc.supremacourt.gov.ph) Certificate of Good Standing or latest Official Receipt from the HP National Treasurer (TR for 2 preceding years Clearances from MBI. Ombudeman, Office of the Bar Confident and employer Transcript of Records Police Clearance from place of residence

Applicants must submit 8 copies of each of the joikwing

Conthicate of Bar Rating

July 12, 2006

(PSI July 53, 2000)

(Sod.) MALLUISA D. VILLARAMA

The WORLD

Editor Lawerne B. Gueco



RESCUE workers carry an injured pas to the hospital from inside the mangled compartment of one of the bombed trains at Hahim railway station in Bombay July 11. AP

NY subway security tightened

MEW YORK—AFTER DEADLY COORDINATED attacks on packed commuter rail trains in India, New York City officials apped security measures on the subways, sending hundreds of additional police officers to patrol and conduct random bug

The New York Police Department said the measures were precautionary and there had been no specific threat to New York.

"We cake a terror attack in any place in the world, especially one on a public transport system, as a senous warning," Mayor Michael Bloomberg said Tuesday.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority, which runs the system, also announced increased security on its rail tines, tunnels and bridges and in Grand Central Terminal and Pennsylvania Station.

During the evening rush hour, teams of police officers checked commuters' bags inside Penn Station and the Herald Square subway stop, located in the heart of one of Manhattan's busiest shopping districts.

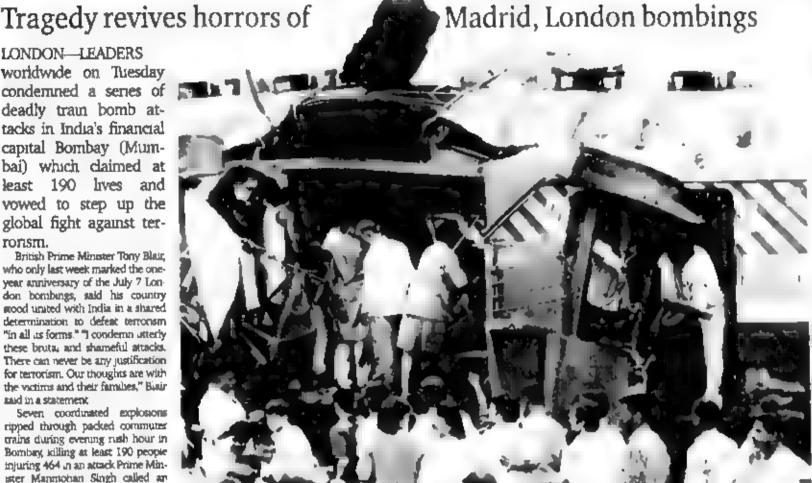
"I don't know how much good this does, but it can't hart," said commuter Steve Cohen, an actuary from Brooklyn.

The city began random bag searches a year ago. in response to the mass transk bombings in London. NYPD officials have refused to say how many bags they have searched in the past year or specify where and when they search them. They argue that by making the searches unpredictable they cur keep would be bombers off-balance.

The city's 468 subway stations serve an average 4.5 million daily riders.

Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said there were no plans to raise the nation's threat level

capital Bombay (Mumbai) which claimed at least 190 lives and vowed to step up the



erament and on my own behalf, I want to express my profound sadness for these very serious terrorist attacles which have struck your country" Zapatero told Singh in a

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice responded by piedging to stand with links in the "war on ter ror." "There is no positical cause that

people," Rice said in a statement

World leaders condemn India blasts

The United States stands with India in the war against terror Those responsible for these terrible acts should be swiftly brought to jus-

Russian President Vladimir Putin, whose country is regularly targeted by Chechen rebel strikes, called for the perpetrators to be "severely puncan justify the murder of innocent sched." "There is no, and there can

be no, justification for a crime of such cynicism and monstrosity," he said in a statement

"The terrorists guilty of this crime must be severely punished." India's neighbour Pakistan described the attacks as a "despicable act of terrorsm." "Palestan strongly condemna the series of bomb biasts on commuter trains in Mumber, India." a foreign ministry statement and. APP

RESCUE workers search for bodies inside the wreckage of one of the local trains hit by bombs at Mahim railway station in Bombas July I L.

"In the name of the Spanish gov-Basayev's death still shrouded in mystery

GROZNY, RUSSIA-THE SPECTACULAR killing of Russia's most wanted man, Chechen warlord Shamil Basayev, ends a years-long hunt for the fugitive who had out in the mountainous territory in and around war-torn Chechnya.

LONDON-LEADERS worldwide on Tuesday condemned a senes of deadly train bomb attacks in India's financial

global fight against ter-

British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who only last week marked the oneyear anniversary of the July 7 Lon-

don bombings, said his country stood united with India in a shared determination to defeat terrorism

"in all as forms." "I condemn atterly these bruta, and shameful attacks. There can never be any justification for terrorism. Our thoughts are with

the victims and their families," Busin

trains during evening righ hour in

Bombay, killing at least 190 people injuring 464 in an attack Prime Min-

ster Manmohan Singh called an

"evil design" of terrorists. (See story

have been fighting Indian rule in the

Rodriguez Zapatero said the tragedy

had revived the horrors of a similar

attack in Madrid two years ago, in

which 191 were killed in coordinat

ed bombs on four commuter trains.

disputed region of Kashmir.

Suspicion fell on Islamists who

Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis

Seven coordinated explosions ripped through packed commuter

said in a statement

on Page 41)

But questions angered Tuesday about the operation that Russian officials say led to Basayev's death when a dynamite-filled truck exploded close to his car in a village in neighboring linguisheda. By some necounts the blast was accidental.

Russia's defense minister hailed the death of "our Bin Laden" as a "landmark event." Still, Serget Ivanov warned that the 12-year struggle with Chechen separatist rebels-which has spread across the impoverished and mainly Muslim North Cancasus in Russia's south-was not over yet

Russian newspapers reported Tuesday that Basayev's elimination resulted from a carefully planned secret service operation that used a shipment of weapons and explostves to ensuare Basayev.

Unnamed security officials quoted by payment of up to \$500,000. the Vremya Novostei daily said the preparations took six months. Intelligence agents planted in his entourage ted him to a trap in which Russian special services detonated the explosives at the moment when he got near the truck, the officials

The Komosmotskaya Pravda daily reported that the undercover agent who was traveling in Basayev's convoy and planted a detonator under the truck received a

But contradicting that version of events was talk of a mussile strike

The ITAR Tass news agency, citing an unidentified law enforcement official in southern Russia, reported Thesday that Basayev had been killed by a rocket that homed in on his phone.

Chechen rebel envoy Aldamed Zakayev denied that Basayev's killing occurred during a special operation, and insisted the ex-

Israel expands offensive

GAZA---ISRAELI TANKS 5WEPT INto the central Gaza Strip on Wednesday and an air raid targeting top Hamas commanders killed six Puesrimans as Israel broadened a twoweek-old offensive.

farael has vowed to continue the operation, which has already cost the aves of over 65 Palestingars, until militants free captured Corporat Gi lad Shalit and stop launching makeshuft rockets over the border

Dozens of armoured velucies trundled atto central Gaza before dawn, effectively cutting the man road down the territory from which brael withdrew less than a year ago after a 38-year occupation.

israel has rejected calls from the governing Hamas Islamist movement for negotiations on a prisoner awap for the 19-year-old tank gunner, whose abduction on June 25 has triggered the worst fighting between braelis and Palestimans since 2004.

In an attempt to kill senior commanders of Hamas's armed wing, an braeli air raid brought down a threestorey building on the northern edge of Gaza City.

At least six people, including two women and two children, were lifted in the attack that turned the house into a rangle of twisted meral, broken concrete, blood and dust.

But the blast and air strike on a nearby car hurt only one Hamas leader, militarus said. Abu Anas al-Ghandour, commander in northern Gaza, was not in a life-threatening condition. Hamas militants helped capture Shalit in a raid anto larger.

There was an attack on a structure in the northern Gaza Strip used by senior members of the Hamas terroctst group," an army spokesperson Reuters



GENGHIS' WARRIORS

Mongolian horsemen in traditional costumes perform during the Maadam opening ceremony in Ulan Bator, Mongolia to calebrate the 800th anniversary of Genghus Khan's march to world conquest on Tuesday with festivities that mused crass commercialism, genuine reverence and pure policicising. W

Iran nuclear talks still at impasse

BRUSSELS-TRAN VOWED TUESday not to cave in to international pressure over its nuclear plans, as the European Union lumented a tack of progress in talks on a Western offer to defuse the standoff

Tehran's top nuclear envoy negodator, An Larijani, speaking after rallis with European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana and other European officials, warned of a "long road" ahead to solve the crists.

"The meeting was disappointing." Cristina Gauach told AFP saying the larest round of discussions with the Tehran envoy "was not satisfactory" The comments came after hardline President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, speaking in Tehran, promised fran would continue sensitive nuclear fuel cycle work and would not back down.

"The Francian nation is determined to obtain all of its rights, including full nuclear rights and the complete exploration of the nuclear fuel cyde," Ahmadinejad was quoted # saying by the ISNA news agency

Iran insists that it only wants to develop nuclear energy but its lack of cooperation with the United Nations nuclear watchdog and enrichment activities have raised suspicious that it is coverily trying to build an atomic

in an effort to get it to freeze urnnaum enrichment-a process needed to fuel a nuclear reactor but which could also be used to make a bomb-the West on June 6 offered Iran a package of economic and political incentives.

The Brussels meeting was armed at taking stock of developments since then, and to say the ground work for talks in France on Wednesday between foreign ministers from the five permanent UN Security Council members plus Germany

Solana said he would report to the ministers from the six powers which drew up the offer and "we will make an analysis to see how we proceed."

Japan, S. Korea at odds over response to missile tests

accused Japan of arrogant and reckiess remarks on Thesday, a day after Japanese seaders raised what South Koreans consider a chilling possibility: a pre-emprive strike on North Kores that would violate Japan's consti-

As discord escalated between Washington's major alies in the region, Christopher R. Hill the assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, returned to China. Attention there focused on whether Belling, North Korea's North to ease tensions over its launching of seven missiles last Wednesday by returning to the sixparty nuclear talks

But China said it did not expect a quick resolution, nor did it support a move by Japan and the United States to pass a UN Security Council resolution imposing sanctions on North Korea, It said such a resolution would be an "overreac-

"If approved, a will aggravate contradictions and increase ten-

SECUL-SOUTH KOREA ANGRILY main ally, could persuade the sion," China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Jiang Yu, said at a news conference. "It will harm peace and stability in the Korean Peninguja and Northeast Asian remon and burt efforts to resume sixparty tailes, as well as lead to the UN Security Council splitting."

Hal's trip came hours after the Security Council de ayed for a second day a vote on the Japan aponsored resolution, which officials in China and South Kores fear could lay the groundwork for sanctions or even military action aga not the North

The council delayed the vote while the Chinese deputy foreign minister and chief nuclear negotiaton Wu Dawei, was talking with the North Koreans in Pyongyang, the North's cantial. Wu's inission was critical for Washington because Japan and South Koren continued to quarrel over how to react to North Korea's missue hreats, a split that experts say North Korea will exploit

There was an important decision to postpone the vote on the

resolution, because the Chinese government had an important dipiomatic mission going on," Hill told reporters in Beijing, "Obviously we are in a rather crucial peri-

Wu's visit to Pyongyang was seen as a test of China's increasingly doubtful influence on the recaicitrant government. Separately, Yang Hyong Sop, vice president of the North Korean parliament, arrived in Beging on Tuesday for a trip that was scheduled to include a meet ing with Prenderk Hu Jintao. NYT



WHAT'S INSIDE

5 Fiery starts for Ardina, Rodriguez in Junior World /A22

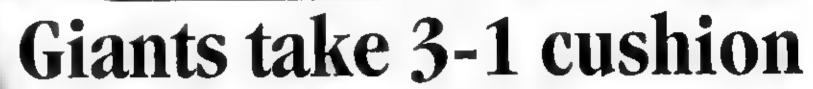


Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

Yext as your feedband: Impulser spri name/age/bity/massage to 2297 (Globe) of 283 (Smart)

☑ WBM poll: Pacquiao new pound for pound No. 1/A23





Use fast start to crush Bulls; Yap bags MVP award

7:10 p.m. Red Buil vs Purefoods (Game 5 of Finals)

By June Navarro

THE STORY MANY THOUGHT WOULD GO down the wire ended right in the first half.

Purefoods pulled a fast one and never looked back to move within a game of disching the PBA Philippine Cup with a 99-81 win over Red Bull last night at the Araneta Colise-

There was actually no need for season MVP James Vap and Kerby Raymundo to put up semillating figures as the Giants' support cast of Jun Limpot, Marc Pengris, Richard Yee and Paul Artada proved too much for the Bulls.

Limpot led the jackrabbit start by scoring eight poures in the first quarter, Raymundo's perimeter was impeccable and Artadi engineered fast-break plays as the Giants built a 32 11 spread

The Giants sustained a great start by pulling away, 60-26, with Pingris virtually unstoppable inside the paint and Yee, who lost his shimmer in Game 3, getting back to his sneaky self underneath the bas-

We came our with guns ablaze and doused every rally aspirations of Red Buil," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio after the Giants took a 3-1 lead in the best-of-seven se-

It was a night that couldn't have gotten any better for Yap, who edged Raymundo and Red Bull star Enrico Villanueva for the covered MVP trophy. The sweet-shooting University of the East product won one of the closest races for the award a year after losing the rookie of the year trophy.

This is the laggest achievement of my carees," said Yap in Filipino. But I'll be more happy if we win the championship."

The former UE Warrior was named MVP during the 2003 UAAP season and got Mythical Five bonors in the PBL in 2004 but never tasted a championship except in

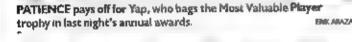
"It's already done (awarding). My focus now is to win the champiquestip not only for myself but for my teammates as well," said the 24year-old Yap, who is known out of the playing court as the husband of the popular Kris Aquino.

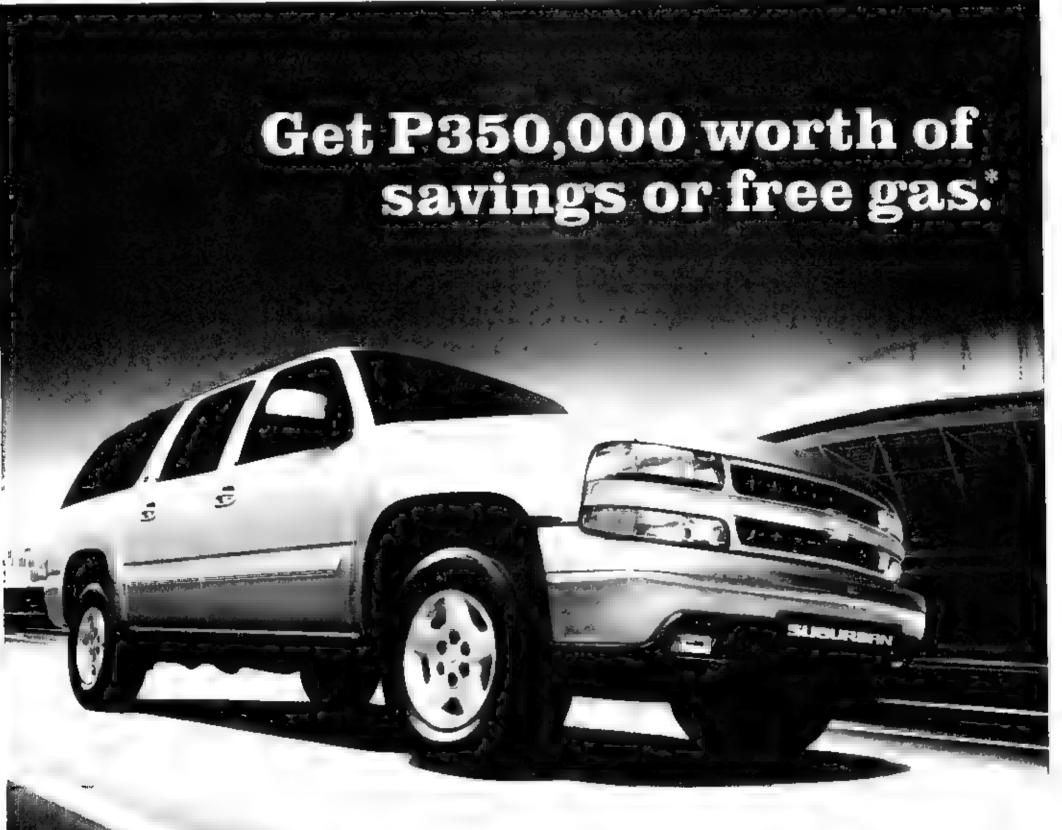
Yap also joined Raymundo, Villamera, Purefoods' Roger Yap and Lordy Tugade of Red Bul in the first Mythical team. Larry Fonacier of Red Bull was named top rookie.

More importantly, he helped add spice to Purefoods first half charge to get nearer to the goal of winning a championship.

Yap buried back-to-back threepointers, the second triple more GIANTSI A24







SUBURBAN

And if you choose to entry your fortune or gue carde around, no

CHEVROLET



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SPORTS Fiery starts for Ardina, Rodriguez in Jr World

By Jong Arcano

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA-ITS not the arrow but the archer.

Dottle Ardina, proving she can do magic with whatever golf clube in her hands, moved into contention with a late barrage of birdies that gave her a three-under-par 70 on Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila) and solo second place in girls' Class C at the start of the Callaway Junior World Golf Champipuships in various courses here.

Cyna Rodriguez also sperided in an otherwise quiet start by the Philippines in this annual tourney of a thousand players representing 52 countries, carding a one-under 71 to secure third place un girls' Class B.

Already one of the most feared eatries here with a victory and three top 5 finishes in her last four Junior World stints, Ardina needed just a day to get comfortable with the borrowed clubs she got after losing her set to threves last Sunday during the opening ceremony.

With a five-birdle round that included three in a row from the 14th at the Coctonwood course in sun-baked El Cajon, the 12-year-old Ardina quickly took her

will tee off Wednesday trailing Japan's Airi Sugimoto by just a stroke.

Rodriguez used the experience of tuneup matches all over Asia the past moralis to give herself a strong chance of winning like Ardina

A bogey on the last hole at the Oak Gien course of the Sycuan Resort sent her down to thard in her division where Elisa Aoki of Florada (69) and Chirapet Jac-Javanil of Thailand (70) were lead-

Except for at least two age-group brackets, RP hopes in the other divisious faded with Filipino entries needing to overcome big deficits in the second round to salvage limited slots available in the final round.

Marvi Monsalve made the shot of the day, a 3-wood tee shot on the 18th hole of Cottonwood that bounced into the cup for her first ace. She will need more of those shots to survive the girls' Class C. cut after she ended up with an 82.

Everything is fine with my new clids: but I really miss my Callaway driver. It's my constort club," said Ardina in Filipino after bettling the tough afternoon condi-

expected place in the leaderboard and - not for a bad break on the 17th where her birdie attempt from 10 feet lipped

> Of those remaining in the title hunt, Miguel Tabuena stood six shots behind in Class C after a one-under 72 at Cotronwood, Miggy Vee and JR Gonzales were five strokes off in sixth position in Class D with their 63s while Mia Legaspi and Abby Arevaio also trailed by five in a the for fifth in girls' Class E.

Chine Reyes was nurning third in girls Class F nine shots beland the lead-

Marcel Puyat made up for the opening biccup of Wolen Superal (75) with a 73 that enabled the scion of the popular cian to join the group in 18th place at the water-laced Lawrence Welk course.

In the 15-17 years action at Torrey Pines, Tonton Asistio submitted the best round of 74 among five RP entries which was good for a tie for 24th spot while Debbie de Villa was in a large group at 40th following a 77

This not the kind of start we wanted but at least, we're in contention in several divisions. I expect the kids to go all out tomorrow," said delegation head Bang



New Congress out of the question, says football president Romualdez

THE NEXT ELECTION AND REGU-LAR congress of the Philippine Pootball Federation (PFF) will be held in November next year and no proposal exists for the removal of the .ncumbent president in an Extraordinary

PFF president Johnny Rosmialdez stressed this yesterday in response to the call for holding a new congress and elections made by Laguna FA president Arturo Pacificador Jr. and National Capital Region FA head Jose Vito Borromeo during the PSA Forum Tuesday.

"All charges made in the Forum were already addressed earlier by the PFF." said Romunidez in a faxed message to the Incufrer yesterday.

He said anyone nominated for president and seconded may run in next year's election, adding that an Extraordinary Congress may be called only by the president or upon request of at least two-thirds of the members.

Romualder pointed out that the president can be removed through a proposal by the Board of Governors to Congress and "no such proposal

Parlier, Romnaldez said recent actions by the LFA and NCRFA "Indicate they are set to destroy Philippine footbell and the PFF by sensationalizing whatever fault they can (find), real or

They seem to want to give the impression the PFF and its elected officials are pocketing funds intended for development. We categorically deny this as will be proven by the ongoing internal audit and as has been shown by the Fifa audits and the reports of our external auditors and reports to our Congress and to our Board of Governors," he said.

The two FAs want an audit to determine where about P90 million funds given to the PFF by the world foodball federation (Fifa) in the last three years

Romualdez said he had agreed to a request by Pacificador and NCRFA representative Ramon Jose to audit PFF's book "when the revocation of their frespective association's) SBC registrations

He added, however, that an internal audit is already being conducted by three provincial association presidents of the highest integrity and the LFA and NCRFA could ask them any question regarding the FFF's finances.

He emphasized that the NCRPA has the option to file estafa charges and the courts have the option to decide that the association has a legal dentity despite the revocation of its SEC registration.

"But it is also our option to insist that the recalcitrants work on the lifting of these revocations before opening our books to them," said Romialdez. "It is also our option to name a reasonable time and date and to define reasonable procedures for any audit."

PSC to deal with private transport firms next week

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION will six down and talk with the different private transport companies from which the 2005 Southeast Asian Games organizers owe at least P30 million starting next week, according to PSC commissioner Richie Garcia

This is in line with the PSCs commitment to pay for the arrears left by the Philippine SEAG Organizing Committee which reportedly amounts to more than P50 million.

Of the amount, P30 million was earmarked for the transportation of more than 10,000 foreign and local athieres and officials to and from the competition vermes around the country, which hosted the SEAG last December.

The remaining P20 million, according to the PSC, was incurred for the food and allowances of more than 5,000 volunteers in the major hubs of the Games that include Metro Manila, Subic, Bacolod City and Cebu City.

Philson is also reportedly being dogged by the firm which printed the SEA Games Daily and the staff of its official website

But Garcia said they will tackle first the transport firms and meet with their heads. The firms provided VIP cars, vans, buses and trucks during the week-long SEA Games.

He added that the PSC will ask the Pagcor to help then defray the expenses on top of the monthly subsidy they get from the National Sports Development Fund.

Wild gossip, play of words can't save RP football

THE HUNT FOR A COZY PRE-DAWN spot, where to savor the World Cup final piping hot, led to the discovery of the finest pizza in town, at Bobong Velez's Mezze', an exquisite eating and watering hole at the Greenbelt in

Make mme Caesar's salad toppings-assorted greens, arop the thin crust that's crisp, tender and perfectly warm-which turn into a star-of-the-restaurant-world the way these are prepared in Mr. Bobong's newest pride.

All seats were taken, as could only be expected, with top-seeded national writer Krip Yuson, for whom the host had reserved a table before the main screen, opting to do the watching somewhere at Ortigas after his retinue of friends and grand kids continued to swell by the

No great pizza, of course, was France skipper Zinedine Zidane, a sports god in his country, but whose name suddenly became synonymous to soccer wildness after he was sent out for slamming his crazy head into the chest of one burly hanan defender.

The French team captain thus betrayed the even heartbeat of an entire nation that's famous for its civilized, mild-mannered citizens.

A dirty way, indeed, to punctuate a great career, but that's how the coolee

BARE EYE



Zidane could've been provoked. But it definitely did not feel good that one great player, who had been mentioned alongside the great Pele, would squander all the hard-earned myth and dignity in a single outburst of frustration.

Suddenly, the Prench were finding it rather hard to laugh at themselves. But could they be blamed for losing their

Capturing the Jules Rimet would have more than made up for the national letdown following the controversial loss suffered by Paris (to London) in its bid to host the 2012

It would have been a great follow-up to the World Our win by France in 1998 which also starred Zidane.

Well, here at home, those who honestly care for football could only squirm amid hideous claims that the development of the sport all over the country was on the right track.

in the first place, there are practically no tangible signs that football in the

Philippines, may not be totally dead.

But it's in a picifully decayed state, as could be gleaned from the lack of nextssay viral activities in Metro Marala and numedrate localities.

Of course, top officials of the Philippine Rootball Federation, who get millions in support annually from Fifa, body of world football, insist they are on the right track.

If there's something wrong about the sport here, so claimed PFF head Johnny Romandez, it was in not having advertised the growth of football in the Philippunes.

Romunidez mentions great football leaps out in Mindanao but, on the whole, there was nothing truly great to ship.

There is definitely a better, surefire way to bring RP football back on its feet, as claimed by a group opposed to what they called the dictatorial rule at

Romunidez has been accused of lack of transparency and professionalism.

Jun Pacificador, Laguna Football Asanciation president, blasted Romusides for abruptly canceling the national fursal (indoor soccer) which Laguna was all set to host last December. Pacificador also cited the case of a

Laguna football official who was sus-

OK, the sport of socces, which once who ended up as a PFF adviser for had rivated baskethall in popularity in the youth development, "with an al-JOWANICE ID DOOL

There was also the scrapping of the national squad to the Asian Under-19 tournament last January, because the PFF missed the registration deadline, Pacificador added.

Meanwhile, Pocholo Borromeo, National Capital Region Pootball Association president, continued to challenge Romusikez to come up with an honest accounting of the millions in support funds that he gets from Fife anatually.

Romualdez, so claimed Borromeo, just continued to evade the assue.

Borromeo and Pacificador were joured by farmer PFF head Honesto Isleta in actacking Romandez for fathure of leader-

in fact, Romanidez had previously hinted to this reporter how lucky he was for not getting sued for libel following insinuations in this column that millions in international football support funds to RP were not being properly unlized.

Romandez coolly stuck to his wornout claim: They've not advertised growth of football but it's there.

That, of course, is not easy to believe. At best, the Romandez class could sound like wild gossip from someone who profits from empty football develop-

Yes, unlike that great pitte at Mezze in Makari, football revival in the Philippines is nowhere near around the corner.

Zhuhai crash continues to haunt Tyson

FORMULA three star Tyson Sy's harrowing crash in the last round of the series last month at the Zhuhai Internationa. Circuit in China continues to haunt h.m.

Aside from coughing up nearly P2 million. not P1 million as earlier

TYSON SY reported, to rebuild his Dallara 304 nearly emashed to pieces when he slammed into Speechech Asia teammate Gaby dela Merced'a

flag" in effect during lap 8 of the 12-tap race. The same fine has been slapped on Briton Dilion Battistini of JA Motorsports whose blocking maneuver on Sy in that fateful lap of Round S forced the 18-year-old Filipung to swerve to his right onto Dela Merced's car that had stalled in front of the grandstand a lap earlier.

statled car, Sy will have to shell out an additional

\$2,000 as fine for 'disregarding the double yellow

The Hong Kong Automobile Association, one of the bodies that has jurisdiction over the race, had initially wanted to fine the two \$5,000 each. and their points earned in the race-12 for Sy (third) and 15 for Battistim (second)-be excluded from the standings.

The two, however, appealed to the Automobile Association of the Philippenes, the body sanctioning the AF3 races, and got a reprieve.

Jun Espino, a member of the committee on motor sports of the AAP yesterday said the two were fined for "disregarding the double yellow flag during the race because of unsafe racing con-

The reprieve on the points earned during Round 5 means Sy will go into Round 6 with his series-leading 87 points and 21-point lead over Barrisdni intact. The Briton, meanwhile, continues to enjoy a four-point lead over Filipino Dado Pena of Team Goddard and Irishman Ali Jackson of Aran Racing who are ded for thard and fourthplaces with \$2 points each.

Sy left for Zhuhai yesterday, shelving plans to delay his departure, to enable him to test his rebuilt racing machine on Thursday and Priday.

crumbles-Zidane vividly displaying to country is alive and kicking, except for pended for 18 months by the PFF for the whole world how it does not pay to sporadic shirmishes in remote areas. attacking a player with a knife, but always take yourself too seriously.

ULY MANINGDING'S SWEEP IN THE THIRD recent history to win the title in two different ma-LEG of the 2006 San Mig Coffee-Petron Blaze Cup Philippine Touring Car Championships recently put him in strong contention for the

Group 3 crown. Bouncing back from a series of car problems in the past races, Maningding jumped to fourth place overall with 46 points, just seven points behand pace Pacho Blanco who amassed 53 points.

Also a strong contender in the slalom series, Maningding hopes to become the first driver in

torsports disciplines,

Nothing sare but we'll try" said Maningding. "But for now, we have to focus on things we have to do to fortify our title chances in both stalem. and rouring cars."

Marringding is being backed by Explorer Motompons, Comy Alberro Racing, College of St, Catherine, Subic Montessori, Alns High Transport, Autocircult, Alelines Catering and CSS lmage Dengo.



ULY Maningding surges ahead of his rivals.

SPORTS Spring Oil-Parañaque shoots for finals slot vs Pagadian

Oil-Parafiaque shoots for the second finals berth when it faces expansion Pagadian today in Game 2 of their best-ofthree series in the 2006 Guerrero Brandy-NBC national basketball champi-

onship at the city gym here.
The Cooking Oil Masters of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and

the slight favorites in the 6 p.m. contest.

If Spring-Parañaque repeats its 82-75 victory over Mayor Sammy Co's Explorers in Game 1, it would arrange a crown showdown with last year's winner Oza-

Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog's Cotta

PAGADIAN CITY—SPRING COOKING Parahaque Vice Mayor Anjo Yilana are by winning Game 2, 81-70, last Monday the slight favorites in the 6 p.m. contest. for a sweep of Batang Tagaytay in the other crossover semis.

This is the first time in three years that the Cooking Oil Masters have gone this far in the tourney sponsored by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring Mineral Water, Spring Cooking Off, Regent Shrine cagers chirched the first finals slot Foods, Firefly Lightings, Molten and

"Pagadian is the league's second-best team in the classification round based on win-loss record," said Spring Parañaque coach Yong Garcia. "It is capable of coming back. We have to be ready

PSL veterans Larry Rodriguez and Marvin Ortiguerra are expected to lead

the Cooking Oil Masters' bid

The Explorers are leaning on ex-pros Peter Naron, Bong Marata and Michael Orquillas and PBL veteran Lou Gatum-

We lost control of the game in the end," said Pagadian coach Seguno "Bong" dela Cruz. "The boys need to stay

RP bows out of Jones Cup

A PHILIPPINE FEAM CAMPAIGNING AS SMC-Pilipinas bowed out of the William Jones Cup yesterday, dropping a 91-86 decision to Kazakhstan at the Taipei Physical Education College Gymnasium.

With their fourth loss in five outings, the Nationals blew their bid for a final four spot in the eight-team tournament

The hastily formed RP squad ended a three-game slide by bearing Australia two days ago and faced a must-win situation in its last three games.

Down by three points in the closing seconds, SMC Pilipinas set up shooter Dondon Hontiveros for a wide-open three-open shot that rimmed out

"We all crashed the boards and Kazakhstan got a breakaway layup after they got the rebound," said national coach Chot Reyes.

"I can't say enough about our players. Three of our four losses have been five points or less, and all came down to the final possession. We could've easily been 4-1. But such is basketball. What's important is we're investing in our future. And it looks bright with the 25 and under guys we have on this team."

The Nationals take on the Athletes in Action of the United States next.

Petron Visayas taekwondo up

CEBU CITY-THE BEST TAEKWONDO JINS in the Visayan region will take center stage on Jusy 16 when they compete in the 2006 Petron Visayas taekwondo championships at the Cebu Doctors gym here

According to Philippine Taekwondo association president Robert N. Aventajado, the event gives the sport's practitioners in the region the chance to show their skills.

No less than 500 jins from PTA affiliated chapters, schools and branches throughout the Visayan region are expected to compete in the following divisions, semor men and women, jumor men and women, mid-jumor men and women, and grade school boys and girls.

"The tournament is part of PTA's grassroots program," stresses Aventajado, who is also chair of the Phil ppine Olympic Commuttee.

The Visayas championships will be featured by Taekwondo TV, which is hosted by Monsour de, Rosario and John Paul Lizardo every Sunday 9:30 to 10 am over RPN9

The opening ceremony is set at 9 am Martial arts enthusiasts and other sports buffs are invited to watch the event which is supported by Perron, Accet and the Philippine Sports Com-

Lions mangle Stags; Altas clip Bombers

SAMUEL Flowe (right) of San Beda attempts to put up a shot against Jason Ballesteros of San Sebastian in yesterday's game.

By Marc Anthony Reyes

YESTERDAY'S HEAVY DOWNPOUR PROVIDED A PERFECT BACKdrop for San Beda's cold-blooded massacre of San Sebastian.

TOMORROW (Mino)

Aquino Stadium)

12 nn-San Beda vs

San Sebastian (Irs)

2 p.m.—Mapus vs

St Banilde (srs) 4

p.m.—PCU vs La-

tran (srs/jrs)

The Red Lions held the Stags to only five points in the first quarter and went on to score a 71-52 rout for their fourth straight win in the NCAA baskethall mament at the Ninoy Aquino Stadrum.

San Beda tied Philipnine Christian for secand with a 4-1 record behind unbeaten defending champion Letran (3-0). SSC fell to 2-4.

Klue. Misa unloaded 31 points and Korean rookse Lee Sangmyeon completed a three-point play in the final minute as Peroctual averted an endgame meltdown to nip Jose Rizal University, 78-77, in the other seniors match. The Altas broke a threegame slod for a 2-3 record while the Bombers fell to their fourth straight loss.

Lee's three-point play boosted the Alcas to a 78-75 lead after JRU had closed in at 75-76 behind John Wilson, Jayson Nocom and Mark Pradas in the last two minutes.

Samuel Ekwe also delighted the

crowd as the 6-foot-8 Nigerian grabbed 23 rebounds on top of seven points, five blocks, three assists and one

Barlier, the Light Bombers routed the Altalettes, 109-93, to post their third win in four games while handing

their victims their fourth straight toss. The Red Cubs-Staglets clash was reset for tomorrow.

Second Game (Sts) PERPETUAL 76-Miss 31. Kong 15, Bau-

zon 14, Lee 8. Manuel 7 Mendoza 2, Racho 1 Reyes 0, Perturbos 0, Manalarig 0, Jaz 6. JPU 77-Wilson 12 Pradas 12 Nocom 12, Dedicatoria 12, Cagneo 12, Sena 9, Hayes

3, Bucao 3, Fenequito 2, Caspe 0 Quarters 25-17 44-31, 67-57 78-77 Third Game (Sts)

SAN BEDA 71 -Maggay 13, Aljamai 11 Angeles 11, Gamalinda 9, Menor 8, Elove 7 Tecson S. Escobat 4, Hermida 3, Taganas 0

BAN SEBASTIAN 52-Vicente 14, Bulawar B, Aguino 7, Viray 6, Raymundo 5, Delgado 5. Ballesteros 4, Lindaya 3, Juan 0, Sagad O, Najorda O, De Leon O. Ampatuen O Questors: 18-5, 37-20, 51-42, 71-52.

WBM poll: Pacquiao new pound for pound No. 1

other accolade after being named by the World Boxing Media (WBM) as the new No. 1 pound-

for-pound fighter in the world. Pacquao, who is coming off a victory over Mexican Oscar "Chololo" Lanos here at the Araneta Coliscum, replaced Floyd Mayweather at the top of the presigious list, the Tigerbox-

Voting among the members of the world me-

MANNY PACQUIAO RECEIVED YET AN dia is usually done in secrecy, thus Tigerboxing com speculated that Pacquao's rise to the top was aided by that victory over Larios and his 10th-round stoppage of Mexican ring toon Erik

Morales early this year Pacturao has another scheduled fight against Morales—the third installment of their well-fol-

lowerl rivalry—in Las Vegas in November. Trailing Pacquiao in the pound for pound list are some of the most notable names in boxing

these days, including the second-ranked May-

Winky Wright ranked third in the pot, despite his draw with Jermain Taylor. The middleweight champ, on the other hand, rose from such to fourth.

Bernard Hopkins made it to the mythical fist at No. 10 after dominating Antonio Tarver in their last bout. The mactive Kostya Tszyu, meanwhile, slipped out of the top 10.



PACOUIAO

Ateneo de Naga fellowship golf

THE ATENED DE NAGA HIGH SCHOOL CLASS '81 is hosting a fellowship golf tournament on Sept. 1 at the Camp Aguinaldo Golf Club in Quezon City. Tee-off time is at 11 a.m. More than 100 golfers, including batch members and other Ateneo alumni friends and supporters are expected to join the event which is part of the activity buildup for the grand Atened Homecoming on Dec. 30 at the Ateneo de Naga campus. Proceeds will be used to provide scholarship grants to deserving Bicolanos and support other AdeNU HS '81 projects. Call May, Carvantes at 911-80-01, local 6663 or 6204 0920-9520297 or the event organizer, Team Ven-Tures. at (02) 400-9745/ (82) 522-5953.

Reyes scores breakthrough win in karting

victory of the season in the Mini Rok category during the fourth leg of the Shell Super Karring Series held on July 7 at the Boomland Kart-Trak in

The 10-year-old Reyes, a Grade 4 student at the Ateneo de Manila and is coached by former karting great Elson Carpio, started the race from last place and then worked his way up into second at mid distance of the 22 lap con-

Biding his time, Reyes trailed Renz Pascoguin for a long time before making a heart-stopping move four laps

FRANCO REYES TOOK HIS FIRST from the end to seize the lead, which he held onto until the checkered flag. Third place went to Joey Orduña.

'It was a hard-earned victory ," said Reyes, driving for Jet Racing and sponsored by Industria Productions and informermedia. "I didn't do well in qualifying because I had problems with grip in the rain, that's why I started from the back of the grid.

Reves will see action in the next leg of the series, which is scheduled on Aug. 12 and 13 at the Enchanted Kingdom. He also has his sights on the next leg of the Asian Karting Open Championship which will be held in Indonesia next month.



REYES: Heart-stopping move

June 21 23, 2006 TMS Ship Agencies

CHAMPIONS: Members of the TMS Ship Agencles Inc. pose after running away with the overall title in the recent National Open Track and Field Open in Palayan City, Nueva Ecija. Among those shows were coach Jeoffrey Chua, Raiph Waidy Soguilon, Albert Salcedo, Arnold Viliarube, Henry Dagmil, Angelo Dalisay, Romel Donesa, Alex Gabito and Rene Herrera. Other team members are Sheena Atilano, Mercedita Manipol, Grace Milgar, Phoebe Que, Liza Yambao and Charlene Pagayon. Sportsman-businessman Terry Capistrano is president of TMS Ship Agencies Inc.

Villanueva rules Hiso-Baras bike race

FORMER TRADE TEAM RIDER ORly Villagueva ruled the 2nd RP Hiso Cycling Cup "Bike Rush in Baras" which started and flowshed in front of the Saras Municipal Ball in Rizal over the weekend. The 25-year-old native of San Leonardo, Nueva Ecija, broke away in the last phase of the 7-taps criterion race to outsprint rivals Sherwin Glamsay of Tartac and provincemate Jay Tolentino on route to the title. VIIlanueva snatched the title from defending champion Victor Espiritu akso a former Trada Team mainstay and Mariboro Your Hillist, "Marakas ang kalaban, nakatulong din ang buhos ng ulan at patag na rula, bati na lang nakakalas ako sa lasi

clocking in the five idlometer round tap was 7 minutes 50 seconds. The race was organized by Chicagobased sports patron Rolly Hisp and Marridna Cycling Club official Berting Rosales and hosted by Baras Mayor Wille Robles, Villanueva pucketed the P7.088 top orize and a yellow Jersey while Glamsey and Totantino received P5.000 P3,000 red jersey and blue jersey, respectively, from Hiso Sports Management. Hiso, a former national cyclist and cycling team manager (90's), urged Villanueva to train harder and promised to back Viltanueva in his bid to compete in an International event in the US.

lap," said Villanueva, whose best

BY TOP CHOICE

- (Planta(CoyTe) — Str Citton (3) Sarrabah 1 Sporier (4), Domettin Aughl (5), Magic can ke [1] -(DrVA) — Aughl (blac (7), Dom't Tell Sis

(2) Packar Criff(f) — Record to the Province (1) In the Desk 7) (Packar Criff(f) — Record Stars (5) Material Record Region (1) No. 111). Easy Reserving (1), Easy Reserving (1), Easy Reserving (2), Easy Reserving (3), Seeing Massive (3), Seeing Massive (3), Seeing Massive (3).

(2) Renzio Stays (1), Marta Identification (5) Renzi 5 — (In/Irl) — Priendry Fire (5): Surcett Sante (6) May Gerry (1), Western Danger (2): Renzi 7 — (Punta Orl/Irl) — Renzis

SPORTSWATCH

Defense & Arms Show up

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL SHOOTING ASSOCIATION (PNSA) head coach Orlando Marquez will conduct a seminar titled: "Women in Clympics Shooting Events" at the 2006 Defense & Sporting Arms Show Part is, starting today at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamali 8, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City. The seminar is tree of charge to show visitors and will be held on July 15 and 16, from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. The PNSA is a founding mamber of the Philippine Olympic Committee and is recognized by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF).

Fastest Win stakes P.5 M A GUARANTEED PRIZE OF P500,000 WILL BE DIS-

puted in the Super Fastest Win One-Cock Ututan at San Juan Collseum on July 22. The SJC management peoped the entry (se at P1,100. Each winner will get a bonus of P1,000. The fastest win champion will get the top prize of P75,000 1 likewise, the first 10 winners will receive a mountain bike, last 10 winners, mountain bike: slowest win, P10,000 and washing machine and second slowest win, P5,000 and TV. Meanwhile, the no entry fee cocklights of SJC resume on Saturday.

Express derby at Las Piñas MORE THAN 50 NON STOP FIGHTS WILL SPICE up the Express 2-cock darby, a new derby format, at Las Piñas Collseum beginning at 7 tonight. According to colliseum manager Alex Tobles, a participant can field two or three entries since only two gamebirds are needed per entry. Entry fee is only P3,300. Tonight's hosts are Munding Elicanal, Bernie Selva. and Jhezil Farms. The annual Las Piñas 6-stag derby witi be held on Aug. 24 and 26, with tormer Mayor Nene Aguitar as host. Screening of stags, 8-10 months old, will start on Aug. 1 Screening is set Saturdays and Sundays, from 1-5 p.m. Call 873-1040 ano 874-3910.

Espiritu cagefest set July 30 SEVEN TEAMS HAVE BEEN INVITED TO JOIN the 10Th Danny Espiritu Cup basketbau tournament

which unwraps on July 30. These are HSBC-HDPP Alabang, Home Cagers, Makab Stars, Las Piñas College Blue Llons, Gamena Ali Stars Batang Tagaytey and Pengasinan Hundred Islands. Other interested team may call basketball talent manager Danny Espiritu at 09178456944 or Romeo Borromeo at 09217396558.

AMES: I believe in the direction this organization is headed.

Cavs fans breathe easy-James to stay

early Wednesday to a three-year contract extension with the Cleveland Cavaners, keeping the Ali-Star forward with the club through at least the 2009-10 season.

The contract includes an option that would allow James to extend the deal one season, the Cava-

CLEVI-LAND-LEBRON JAMES AGREED tract, which James is yet to sign, will take effect. Saturday that he had agreed to an extension with after the 2006-07 season.

"I knew all along—and I had always said—that I wanted to stay here in Cleveland, so it's a terrific day for me and my family to actually make it official," James said in an interview on the team's website. "Now I can continue to concentrate on basketball and helping bring a championship to Cleveland."

Pinancial terms weren't revealed.

Although the 21-year-old James announced

the Cavs, the deal couldn't be finalized until Wednesday, when the NBA's moratorium on free agency ended

The deal is a huge relief for a team that has risen into contention in James' three seasons and fans who were worried the superstar might leave

"If I didn't believe in this team and this organizadon and the direction that we're headed, I wouldn't have signed the extension," James said.

Lippi, Klinsmann resign

Champion coach cites scandal; German burned out 3-1 series

ROME—ITALY Marcello Lippi resigned Wednesday, three days after guiding the Azzurri to their fourth World Cup ti-

The resignation came at the heels of German coach Juergen (Ginsmann's decision not to extend his contract with the

Despite widespread calls for him to stay, Lippi suggested weeks ago that he would resign. He feels he and his son, Davide, were attacked personally in the corruption scandal tainting the domestic

"At the end of an extraordinary professional and human expenence, expenenced as the head of an exceptional group of players, I believe my role is over as the guide of the Italian national team," Lippi said in a statement.

While he is not under investigation, Lippi was questioned by prosecutors before the World Cup about alleged pressure he received to select certain players for Italy's national team. Davide Lippi is under urvestigation for his work at player agency GEA World.

Italian soccer federation vice president Giancarlo Abete said Lippi had told him during the round-of-16 stage that he in-



A BRUNED-out Juergen Klinsmann will go on a six-month vacation.

rended to quit regardless of his team's per-

In a statement, Abete praised Lippi for his "extraordinary professionarism and his ability leading the team."

in Frankfurt, Germany, Klinsmann stepped down and handed the reins of the national squad to Joachim Loew.

Khrismann told reporters he was leav-

ing to spend more time with his California-based family

"I feel burned out," said Klinsmann, adding that he would take a six-month vacanon. Loew, 46, had been Klinsmann's assistant for the past two years.

"I regret his decision, but we have to accept it." Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder, co-presi-

OVER 90 PERCENT OF GERMANS polled, including some of his worst critics, wanted Juerper Klinsmann to stay. But the third-placed coach backed out saying he feels "burned out." Reulars, though lists six possible reasons for the decision; 1. Klinsmann was always unpredictable and unconventional during his playing career—he almost never stayed anywhere for more than two years and left some clobs, like Tottenharr Hotspur, after just one season to move on; 2 Hats close to his family and cherishes his anonymous life in California; 3. The DFB often clashed with Klinsmann dutting his two years in charge, challenging his decisions, denying several staff requests and hiring some executive personnel he opposed; 4. Klinsmann laced constant secend-guessing and criticism of his California home base and tactics from newspapers, 5. He knows it will be hard to duplicate the success he has had in taking Germany to the World Cup semifinals and; 6. Kinsmann does not need the money.

Earlies, the mass-circulation Bild newspaper and the Sueddeutsthe Zeitung reported in their Wednesday editions than Klinsmann will not extend his contract, which ended with the World Cup.

Klinsmann's rejuvenated team went beyoud expectations by finishing third, after losing to eventual champion Italy 2-0 in

Giants rout Bulls, take lead

than a meter away from the are with a second left before the break, as the Giants made it 66-34 at the half.

Yap tossed in 23 points, including eight straight markers when the Bulls pulled within 85.72 in the fourth, while Pingris had 18 points and 14 rebounds, nine of them offensive boards.

"We'll definitely go for it next game," said Gregorio. "The mind set is to always think that it would be the last game that we'll be playing." Limpot, who has yet to taste a championship

tide in his 15 year career, posted a season-high 19 points while Roger Yap added 12. Down 1-3, the Bulls will have to pull off a caper only one team in league history has

achieved. Ginebra came back from a 1-3 deficit in a bestof-seven series to stun Shell and capture the 1991 First Conference crown.

But it will take a week before the Bulls could do anything to redeem themselves. The Finals take a one-week respite and resume on July 19.

The stores:

PUREFOODS 99- Yap J. 23, Limpot 19, Pingris 18, Yap R. 12, Yee 9, Reymundo 8, Evangelista 4, Artadi 3, Castillo 3, Simor D. Gembos O, Camaso O.

RED BULL 81-Vikanumo 25, Pennisi 13, Robinson 10. Fonacier 9, Bugla 8, Tugarie 7 Bagulo 5, Hrabak 2, Valenzuela 2, Najordà 0, Cruz 0.

Quarters: 32-11 56-34, 62-63, 99-61.

Mountains beckon Tour riders, could unveil Lance successor

DAX, FRANCE-NOW FOR THE HARD

Having survived fast and dangerous racing on the flat, Tour de France riders wednesday into the Py their first encounter with the high mountains

The steep, long, hard climbs should help separate out true contenders to succeed seven-time winner Lance Armstrong from those who can't make the gradient, offering a little clarity to a race devoid of any standout favorite so far.

The spedight will move away from sprint specialists like Oscar Prette, winner of Tuesday's pancake-flat stage nine. Lithe climbers and riders eyeing the overall title, who need to get over the humps well if they are to win in Paris on July 23, will move to the fore.

Freire, a directime former world champion, flashed past current world champion Torn Boonen and held off a late-surging Robbie McEwen of Ausreturned in a grouped sprint finish Tuesday at Dax in southwest France. The 169.5-kilometer (105-mile) ride started in Bordeaux.

The win was the Spaniard's second of this Tour-consolation for missing the expected birth of his first child in com-

It's better to be here winning, while not being at home, than being here losmg," he said.

Contenders for the overall title did what they nearly always do in flat stages stay safely out of the sprinters' way. The gap between race leader Serhiy Honchar of Ukraine and next best

overall Floyd Landis of the United States remained unchanged at 1 minute.

American Levi Leipheimer's bad Tour got worse. He suffered a tire problem in the final stretch that cost him 26 seconds, to add to the large deficit he built up in the first long time trial last weekend. He is now 6:43 behind Honchar, which could rule him out of the title race.

Lands said riding consistently in the mountains would be key.

"All of the mountain stages can be potentially disastrous if you have a bad day" he said.

That comment came at a news conference Monday when he announced that he is racing with a painful arthritic hip that will need to be replaced after the three-week Tour, clouding his longterm career prospects.



WORLD RECORD

Liu Xlang (front) of China sets a world record past Dominique Arnold of the US in the men's 110-metre raco at the IAAF Super Grand Prix athletics meeting in Lausanne, inset shows the official time of Liu's record, 12.68 seconds, beating the old mark of 12.91. seconds

Maroons target 2-0 start vs Bulldogs; Tigers take on Falcons sence of one of his team's top scorers.

GAMES TODAY (Rizal Memorial Gallianum) 2 p.m.—UP vs NU (Srs) 4 p.m .-- Ademson vs UST (Brs)

MINUTES AFTER WINNING HIS OPEN ing game in the UAAP men's basketball tournament, returning University of the Philippines coach Joe Lipa certainly Jooked proud

Playing beyond expectations, Lipa's UP Margons hardly seemed like a team with

"(The modes are) confident because 1 know they're big winners and they're ably supported by the veterans," said Lipa as his young squad vies for a 2-0 lead at 2 p.m. to day at the Rizal Memoriai Collseum.

The Maroons escaped with a 94-92 oiamph over the Sto. Tomas Tigers, who will gun for their first win versus the Adamson Parcons at 4 p.m.

Veteran playmaker Marvin Cruz bailed

out the Maroons by burying a short jumper with only three-tenths of a second remain-

But not many expected the Maroons to get a quick boost from freshmen Migs de Asis and Mortin Reyes, the two recruits from 2005 UAAP juniors champion De La Sade Zobel.

The 5-foot-11 De Asis fired 18 of his 20 points from beyond the arc, including two clutch triples in the final two minutes

Reyes also proved to be a deadly shooter, as the 6-foot-1 swingman scored all of his 12 points from the three-point lane.

While the Maroons' campaign looks promising, the UST Tigers just faced a big blow in their bid.

Veteran guard Jemal Vizcarra suffered a pulled hamsuring and would be sidelined in the Tigers' next few games.

But rookie coach Pido Jarencio said his deep bench could easily make up for the ab-

"If someone comes in or someone leaves, we're okay," said Jarencio. "We're not worried. We're always thinking positive."

Jarencio added his Tigers failed to display their potential in their first loss versus the Maroons.

"That wasn't our game," said Jarencio.
"We were out of focus. Maybe because this is a new team in terms of system. We still need to settle down."



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and the late FPI's

true Inday.

PHOTOS RONUH

PURUNtongs are back, he said, and didn't mean those ratty shorts made famous by Dolphy on "John &

It was 48 hours before the first taping day for the new ABS-CBN sircom, John Fo Sharley," and veteran TV director Bert

de eon was on purs and needles. I'm very nervous," De Leon told be er Enterrainment on Monday.

and well he should be, since the case ed by Comedy King Doiphy and movie queens Susan Roces and Maricel

It will be my first time to direct all three," said De Lean, obviously daunted he "casting coup.

Moreover, "John En Shirley" is a spinor from the country's longest-running

Dolphy and the late Nida Blanca had portrayed John and Marsha Purintong with Maricel as daughter Shirley and Rolly Ouizon as son Rolly.

De Leon acknowledged 'a certain amount of pressure." But they're not about to recreate the legend of John & Marsha," he said. "This is a different

Will Dolphy, who will now play a wndower, still wear his iconic boxer shorts? "Maybe, but they're now brand-

ed-Louis Vuitton," De Leon jested. John En Shirley" is line-produced by XB Entertainment, owned by Karthie Benedicto, whose family's station KBS 9 created the original Total & Marsha."

De Leon pointed out that Susan's character, Encarnacion or the "En" in the citle, was part of the story from the start. He resated: "When we were casting the role, we threw around lots of names. But

SWANNEY A2-3

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Sylvia Roynoso-Gala

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Loni Proynoso-Araullo

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QUALITY MEALS















'Sanitizing' films against US laws

SALT LAKE CITY-SANITIZING movies on DVD or VHS tape violates federal copyright laws, and several companies that scrub films must turn over their inventory to Houyawood studios, an appears judge

DOLPHY arrives for

the story conference

on Monday.

Editing movies to delete objecuonable language, sex and violence is an "lieg timate business" that hurts Honywood studios and directors who own the movie rights said US District Judge Richard P Matsch in a decision reseased Thursday in

"Their (studios and directors) objective is to stop the infringement because of its preparable in any to the creative artistic expression in the copyrighted movies," the judge wrote. "There is a public interest in providing such protection."

Matsch ordered the companies named in the suit, including Clean-Plicks, Play It Clean Video and CleanFilms, to stop "producing, manufacturing, creating and tent ing edited movies. The businesses also must turn over their inventory to the movie studios within five days of the ruling.

Disappointed

We're disappointed * Clean-Flicks chief executive Ray Lines said. "This is a typical case of David vs Goliath. We're going to continue

CleanFlicks produces and distributes samitized copies of Hostywood films on DVD by burning edit ed versions of movies onto blank discs. The scrubbed films are soid over the Internet and to video stores.

As many as 90 stores nationwide-about half of them in purchase movies from CleanFlicks, Lines said. It is unclear how the ruling may effect those

The controversy began in 1998 when the owners of Sunnse Family Video began deleting scenes from "I rame" that showed a naked Kate

The scrubbing caused an uproar in Hollywood, resulting in several lawsuits and countersuits

Directors can feel vindicated by the ruling, said Michael Apred president of the Director's Guild of

Audiences can now be assured that the films they buy or rent are the vision of the filmmakers," he



CLOCKWISE from right: JD Fortune, Kirk Pengitly, Tim Farris, Jon Farits, Andrew Farris and Garry Seers

JD Fortune & INXS set Big Dome show

INXS, WITH BRAND-NEW LEAD SINGER JD Portune, will perform at the Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City on Aug. 15.

The g.g is the Aussie band's first in the country and is part of "INXS Switch Tout" Manua is one of the stops in the world promotour for the album of the same title.

It is the band a first tour with JD, who won the from -man slot last year via "Rock Star, IN-XS," a hit TV reality series conducted to replace Michael Hutchence, who died in 1997

The band members-Andrew Parriss (guitar, keyboards), Tim Farruss (lead guitar), Jost Parries (drums), Carry Beers (bass) and Kirk Pengilly (saxophone, guitar)-served as judges on the show.

INXS (pronounced "in excess") traces its musical roots to Sydney, Australia, where it was formed in 1977 under the name The Parriss Brothers. It became known as INXS two years ater Throughout the 1980s and into the '90s, the band was a major force in Austrahan popular music leading the way to international recognition and popularity for other Austie groups.

For rickets priced at P4,500, P3,500, P2,500, P1,000 and P500-call 911-5555

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BY JERRY SCOTT



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AKO SA TRABAHO.





BY P.M. JUNIOR HINDI LAHAT NG TAO E KASIN TANGA NI LOIS LANE

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LOVEKNOTS

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SA LABAS

BY STEVEN PABALINAS

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MADAMI NANG BALITANG MGA NASISIRAAN NG BAIT SA GANTO TSAKR MOA HARDCORE NA DI NA THE AGA GUMALAWA SA HIMA A DHVDOO!... SOUNFER!

BY MANIX ABRERA



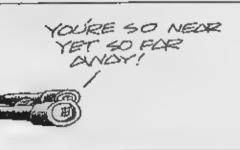
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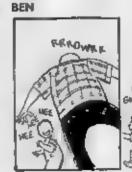
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TULDOK

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DAILY CROSSWORD









ACROSS

-1 Lower California 5 Play's players _arge-scale

Alda or Ladd 15 Big pot of stew 16 TV's Stevenino

Dance partner? 18 Jet-set jet 19 Kirkpatrick of the U.N 20 Start of a quip 23 Lent and

24 Call for help 25 Shopping center

28 Work shifts 33 Temple team

37 Consider 39 Ancient Peruvians

40 Part 2 of quip 43 Barker's CUSTOMER 44 Pol source

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Sew loosely **Нво п-уа**

exec.

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7/13/08 By Roger Cobum

Wodnesday's Puzzle Solved 12 Actress Sofer 13 Change for a EBAN 21 Cloth border 22 Boxing wins, briefly 26 Remaining 27 "The Merry Widow composer 29 Pertaining to 30 Inter-campus sports org. 31 Whitem Howard

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47 W.C.

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53 Honshu volcano

54 Nursery pops

55 Water Jugs

56 Frozen rain. 57 Cupkl 58 Stout's Wolf

59 Plumbing problem 60 Cheep shot 61 Villain of

82 Very French?

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORD TODAY You're daming. You take risks to get what you want. You know how to take advantage of opportunities, and you're prepared to the top. You have stick-to-diveness and staying power A strong Leo influence from around age 10 made you more dramatic for the next 30 years. This year is full of hesh possibletes. Birmalate et. Cheeco Marie, actor Emo Roblic, inventor. Harrison Ford.

19

ARIES [Murch 21 to April 19): You re bold about going after what you want in terms of romanoc altraction. You feel continent you can script things to go the way you wast (And you probably can.)

TAURUS (Auril 28 to 6(ay 20): This is a good time to make major renovations you live. Get rid of applicances and things you longer need. Fix up what you want to keep

GERRIA (May 21 to June 20): You'n extremely convincing and persuasive today Mobody will be able to tests! your arounters's or propos-

als. So after whatever you want? CANCER (June 21 lo July 22): You might spend money to salvage something inday, or perhaps you seer use for an old dem You're determened to make the

LEG (July 23 in Jog. 22); At this firms, physical exercise cur-Morally transform your body. Even a excellent results. (Try II.c)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sapt. 22): Behandthe scenes ellors to get work done or work on a secret prolect will go very well. You're willing to look under every slope to had

(MRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is an excellent day to lorresiste long-term ob-jectives about how you mand to improve your life and your future in general. After all endrything begins with the Intention

SCORP10 (Oct 23 to Nev. 21): Your ambi-Not only that, you 110 have the energy to keep up a sustained effort at whalever you're doing for a long time.

This is good SAGITTARIUS | How 22 to Det: 21): You might work with others to create proprove ments to tereion countries or other cultures. You moght also improve matters in publishing and the media.

CAPRICORN (Occ. 22 to Jan. 19). The recome to you today if you can ligure out as web as yourself. Keep in mand the greater needs of the group

ACHIARIUS Chim. 2010 Feb. 18): You have an apportunity today to clear the air by putting your cards on the latine. Left partners and close Irrends know exactly where you

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 28) Trest your races about how to 3.35 mig - 30 mig - 31

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Difficulty Level ★★★

7/13

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

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DELEON

Swanie joins **Pidol**

From page A2-1

when Susan's name cropped up, we all got excited. Indeed, why not aim for the moun?"

ABS-CBN and KB then initiated talks with Susan, through her representative Dolor Guevarra.

"The first thing she asked for was the script," De Leon said "That time, we didn't have one ready, so I sent my sequence treatment." A few days later, Susan sent word that she was anterested. "This a., happened in a matter of days," said De Leon.

Questions

"She liked the role," Guevarra confirmed with Inquirer.

Then, Susan asked for a formal meeting with De Leon and company "We had dinner with her," he recalled. "She asked many questions."

He said he assured Susan-Swanie show biz circles—that Encamacion was not an updated version of John's meddlesome mother-in-law, Doha Denilah, immortalized by comic Dely Atay-

"I explained to her that her character is offbear-something to look forward to," De Leon said

Atayan

"Champoy" graduate Noel Trirudad is cast as Swame's husband; Vandolph, as Dotphy's youngest son Atong.

hefry talent fee then that convinced the 1960s movie queen?

De Leon was noncommittal. "I'm involved only in the creative aspect "

Reunion

Guevarra, when asked, laughed heartily and said, "I don't know ... Susan said she's looking forward to working with Dolphy again. One of her first big movies, Daw Boksingera. (1956) also starred Dotphy.

De Leon reveated that, for him, working with the Comedy King is a dream come true.

Doiphy's old sitcom, "Home Along da Riles" on ABS-CBN directly had run against the Vic Sotto show directed by De Leon, "Daddy Di Do Du," on GMA.7

Does this mean that "John En Shirley" will go head-to-head with

Daddy"? De Leon darified: "I purposefully requested that we avoid that. I'm not affiliated with any network. It's just that my two shows ("Eat Bulage" and "Daddy") are now aired by GMA 7 in the past, I did 'Eat' (on GMA 7) at the same time as The Sharon Cuneta Show (on ABS-CBN). As a freerancer, I ann always go network-hopping."



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SUPERMAN RETURNS

I WANNA BE HAPPY

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CINEMA 1

TRATES OF CARIBBEAN

CINEMA 2

TRATES OF CAR INSPAN

PLRATES OF CARIBBEAN

I WANNA BE HAPPY

SUPERMAN RETURNS

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I WANNA BE HAPPY

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BATAS MILITAR

PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

marite Johnny Depp. Orlando Horas and Kesta Knightiny in mother take of further minuterrownes of Cape, Joek Spacrow in PELATES OF THE CARRIERAN DEAD MAN'S CHEST Coppein Jack Spatrow discovers that he has a bland didst to Capain Duny foots of the gleatly Plying Datchesse. As time on each, Just finds a way to get out of his delet or he'll be strouted to execute accessed in the affectife.

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ENTERTAINMENT Creative casting enhances 'Happy' film's prospects

JOEY REYES' "I WANNA BE HAPPY" HAS several good things going for it, not the least of which is creative easting. In fact, the production is a good example for how carriy casting can enhance a movie's appeal to viewers.

As we see it, the film is "family-friendly" because its "trans-generational" custing makes it easier for different age groups to relate to it.

While the movie is about the breakup of the 50-year-old marriage of the characters played

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MYRC 8 Care

central conflict on the couple's children and grandchikken. The couple's offspring are played by Cherry Pie Picache, Joey Marquez and Diana Zubiri.

by Gloria Romero and Eddie Garcia, younger

viewers can also empathize with its plot and

characters because it includes the effect of the

They turn out to be an engagingly varied trio, with Cherry Pie taking care of the dramatics, Joey adding spice, and Diana throwing in a little sizzle for good measure. Playing Cherry Pie and Diana's respective

partners are Christian Vasquez and Alfred Vargas. The grandchildren are portrayed by Terence Baylon, Jason Abalos, Dion Ignacio, Alvin Uytingco and Michelle Madrigal. For added comedic zing, Lou Veloso plays

Eddie's randy friend, Keanna Reeves comes on sery and kooky as the GRO who shares Eddie's bed for a while, and Marssa Delgado elicits more laughs as Gloria's bosom buddy.

This infusion of comedic performers energizes the production in a special way, and accounts for most of the belly laughs that its lighthearted scenes generates.

Eddie and Gioria aren't slackers in the comedy department, either, and they work well with the movie's supporting comedians to generate some more over-the-top moments that provide a deft counterpoint to the serious scenes.

In this regard, Joey, Keanna and Marissa

come on strongest. h's interesting to note the variety in their acting styles: Joey plays it grouchy and long-suffering, Marissa is an allout kook, while Keanna banks on "accidental," mali-mali humor.

Which is not to say that the movie doesn't have its less giddy and more substantial moments-but, after all is said and done, it's the

movie's "Happy" factor that holds sway. The film's more mature actors come on so strongly that the starlets playing the grandchildren turn in relatively skittish and coloriess performances.

But they still serve a purpose, because they expand the repercussions of the central conflict, and could interest younger viewers in watching this film about life, love, marriage and fidelity.

Feedback

From Paul R. Mortel of Marikina City " accept your challenge to speak up as a viewer whose voice should be heard by the TV people concerned. After all, viewers like me are the reasons for the TV networks' existence.

"I agree with another one of your readers who complained that there is too much overloading of commercials in top-rating TV programs today.

"If you are motiyaga, you can count from 11 to 14 commercials being aired per commercial gap. exclusive of program plugs. (To be concluded)



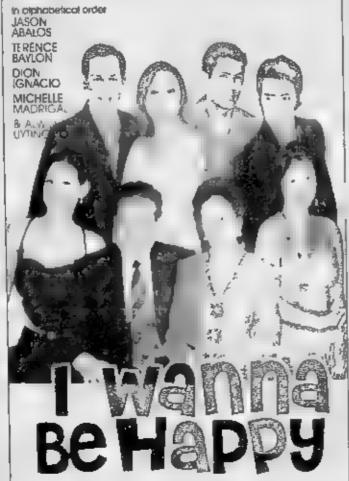
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Negligent producer

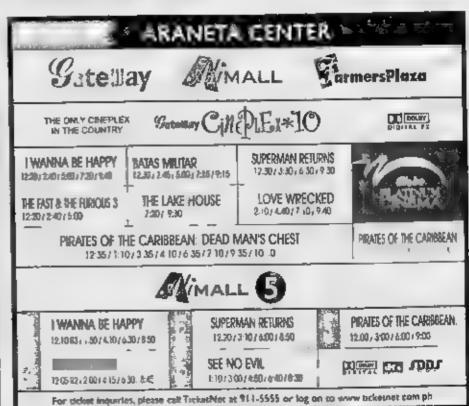
Prom Richard Merk (merkmediainc@gmail.com).

Thank you for your review of the Manhartan Transfer concert review and for publishing my photograph as frontact artist. I'd like to clarify your comments regarding the uneven sound quality during the show,

It is unfortunate that while the sound was perfect during Manhattan Transfer's portion, the producers did not ensure that Toti Fuentes and myself would get the same sound quality during ours. This practice should be rectified for the sake of local artists who will open foreign acts in the future

Also, during my last song, a female voice kept interrupting-obviously a systems failure, but the blame was put on cel-Jular phone users in the audience

It was clearly negligence on the part of the technician on board and the production team, and not the (fault) of the Big Dome management. I have relayed this sentiment to the producers, who should take responsi-







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Talk about comments that make jaws drop

DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE, Bert de Leon, who will direct ABS-CBN's forthcoming comedy senes John En Shuley," had one thing to say about rival station GMA 7's top variety show, which he is also currently directing: "Nothing can beat 'Eat Bu.aga."

Kapamilya execs' jaws dropped. We say: De Leon has earned his stripes; be can say whatever be wants.

Not old

Are we saying he's old? Of course

In the words of a stunned Sharon Cuneta. 'Dırek, may sa de Amonyo ka yata (have you signed a pact with RUSHES the devi.)? You look so young!" Bert is \$9

Sige, 'Day

Marissa Flores-GMA 7's senior VP for News & Public Affairs-recounts an exchange with Annabelie Rama, who was upset about the stanon's reporting on her [Rama's] family's tax problems

"I said I understood how she felt, but I also asked her to understand where we were coming from as journalists "

Rama's reply, according to Flores, was short, sweet and swift: "Sige, 'Day."

Okay, Pidol?

Zsazsa Padilla on her Zsa Zsa Zaturnnah costume. "It's so '80s, so Madonna. Tango (rhymes with mangga) kung tangal"

How does Pidol feer about this? ZZ's unblinking retort: "May

billboard ako sa Edsa, mo?"

Ligaya's next project

Ligaya Salonga says her next "project" is to see that her little grandchild Nic-Lea's firstborn-gets her first years of schooling in the Philippines. The first was to have her delivered here, then christened here (last Sunday) Even just a few years of basic Cathoric education would complete a soud character foundation, as

विशास में के विश्व



OUR vote for Best Male Performer in a Fernale Role on GMA 7's "Fantastic 56" anniversary show on Sunday goes to Kempea de Leon, RODE, ROTON



WHO IS Robert Chien taking snapshots of? Find out on Friday, in Stars Living.

far as this lola is concerned.

lolie's next

Speaking of projects (and character-building), Angelina Johe's next a co-starring role as a tiger in the upcoming kiddie movie "Kung fu Pan-

ENTERT INMENT

Quoting DreamWorks, Reuters reports that the actress, who just gave birth to her love child with actor Brad Pitt, will supply the voice of Tigress, a martial-arts master who helps train the title character, Po the Panda, played by Jack Black, in the ways of kung fu. The animated comedy hirs theaters in May 2008.

Can't wait

MILAN, Italy—Rolling Stones gui-tarist Keith Richards said Monday he has recovered completely from a head injury suffered in a fall.

"I can't wait to get back on the stage," Richards, 62, said in his first comments since he fell from a tree April 27 while vacationing in Fiji, forcing the band to postpone a Euronean tons.

Richards also confirmed his role in the third installment of the "Pirates of the Caribbean" series, saying be'd be filming for a week or so in September. Richards is to have a cameo role as the father of the flamboyant Captain Jack Sparrow, played by Johnny Depp.

"Now I know why (Depp) paid for all those hinches," Richards deadpanned

Gay-porn past

SANTA MONICA, California-In November 2001, Michael Jackson was oblivious to the fact that the man he hired to produce a charity recording to benefit victims of the Sept. 11 terror attacks had been a producer of gay pornographic movies, the singer's former lawyer

Zia Modabber said he broke the news to Jackson about F Marc Schaffel's background and mer with the pop star in the middle of the night to show him a video of Schaffe, directing a gay porn scene.

Schaffel claims the pop star still movies owes him \$1 6 million.







MICHAEL Jackson

'Pirates' still fun but it's too long

By Oliver M. Putumbarit Contributor

*PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN Dead Man's Chest," like as blockbuster predecessor "Curse of the Black Pearl," is generally entertaining, but it's too long.

We see extra-lengthy combat sequences and prolonged jokes that tend to meander and fill gaps between big but hasty character moments. But that pretty much sums up the first movie, too, which, except for Johnny Depp's brilliant swishy pirate Jack Sparrow, is a by-the-numbers popcom

Self-contained

There's a general feeling of fun, undernably, but the intoxication later proves fleeting, as one would be hard pressed to remember the details of the first film's key moments, epiphanies and so Òπ.

This sequel doesn't really give a lengthy recap of the past, but it's self-contained enough to be understood by those who missed the first movie. The three characters—Jack, Elizabeth (Keira (Keira Knightley), and Will (Orlando Bloom) are reunited in a series of sea-faring adventures that seem to beget more mini sea quests and endless troubles. In this installment, opposition comes in the form of monster-purates led by the octopus-faced Davy Jones (Bill Nighy) and his giant "weapon," the Kraken. Will, conveniently, discovers his long-lost dad (Stellan Skarsgard) among Jones' cursed crew mates. Elizabeth, meanwhile, does pretty standard action become stuff, but becomes integral to Jack's transformation from amoral adventurer to hero later on.

"Dead Man's Chest" is once again directed by Gore Verbinski, who, despite his apparent liking for decompression, does okay in cram-

ming everything in. It gets a tittle exhausting, eventually, as non-stop shifts from one crazy locale to another muddle the characters' objectives from time to time. We don't really care anymore where they're going and what they're looking for, at some point, but we don't get seasick because of trusty of Jack

Sparrow, Depp as Jack hasn't' gotten old yet, and the ride is made bearable, thanks. to his adeptness in physical humor and extreme facial expressions. We're constantly remunded that this is practically his playground.

While we see more of the same as far as the summer extravaganza formula is concerned, a welcome change is the range of special effects. The Kraken creature here is closer to established mythology than the amphibious beast of the same name in "Clash of the Titans," in that it has giant tentacles that can easily crumple proud battleships. Just as impressive are Nighy's similarly realistic monster face and those of his marine-. themed flunkies. The costumes and prosthetics impressively merge sea elements like corals, shells, crustaceans and fish partswith the ensorceded humans that sail the Flying Dutchman ship.

Unsinkable

The "Pirates" franchise looks unsinkable at this point, as this second part massively sets up the third movie, "At World's End," slated for a 2007 release. Yes, "Dead Man's Chest" ends in a nice cliffhanger, that dimaxes in the seeming demise of one of the pirates who, fingers crossed, will be resurrected in grand fashion in the next movie. Oh, there's a short scene after the end credits that isn't that important as, say, the one after the "X-Men 3" credits, but it's just pointlessly cute. How apt-the "Pirates" movies are supposed to be light and refreshingly silly. They're just too long



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Till eternity, till maternity?

DOLLY

Wood

MARK HERRAS AND JENNYLYN MERCADO rekindle their "eternal love" in Regal Entertainment's "Eternity." Even if they have split up as lovers, their special bond is timeless.

"No matter where life takes me, Jen will always have a special place in my heart," Mark

Will it be from here to eternity or from here to

materiaty for the residess playboy? What kind of girl will "tame" him? "A girl who's exactly .. ke me," he repues.

On-screen chemistry

Also featured in "Eternity" is Dolly Ann the love team of Iza Calzado Carvajal and Dingdong Dantes, They would have made a beautiful couple off-screen.

'Our love team works; why rum it by getting entangled?" asks Iza, who's happy with her USbased boyfriend. "The long distance setup is tough," she says, "but it makes us value each oth-

Payback time Mark Lapid says he put up his own MTL Films, whose initial offering is "Batas Militar," to give something back to show biz. Says the dashing governor, "Show biz put food on our table and sent us to good schools. I'm returning the favor"

Mark rever dreamt of being a man in uniform. "I was a seminarian for three years," he reveals.

Now he's one of the country's most eligible bachelors. However, he says his love life has been nil since his failed romance with Kris Aquino.

"It's useless to force something that wasn't meant to be," Mark says.

He has a cool relationship with his dad, he insists, "Hindi

siya ong parating nasusunod. He also listens to what I have to say. Watang butas militar sa bahay namin (laughs)!"

Dismussed

Got a text from my amiga Alana Lopez-Montelibano; "Our crim-MIRCE > PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs, ald will only be allowed nal case of physical injuries against Aiko Melendez have been filed in court. All her cases against me and Happy Ongpauco have been

Comic tandem

dismissed,"

Catch Janno Gibbs and Giadys Guevarra in "Chuchay loves Chuperman" at Zukoh Greenhills tomorrow. Wil. Glady's be able to, resist Janno's deadly charms?

Hilarious

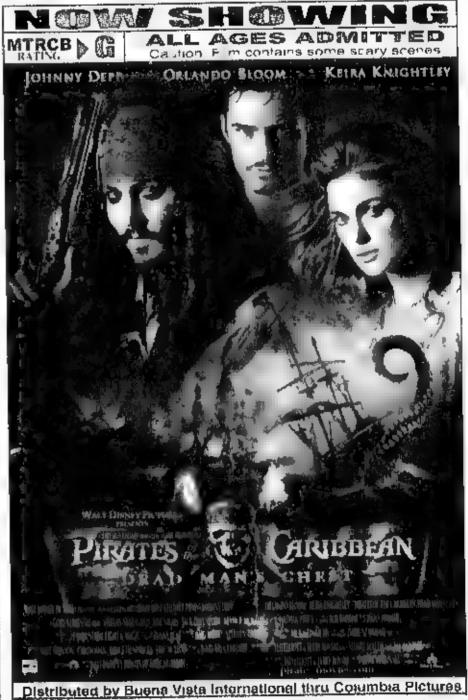
i thoroughly enjoyed Seiko Films "I Wanna Be Happy." Eddie Garcia and Gloria Romero reminded me of Jack Nicholson and Meryll Streep with their impeccable act-

Flimsy excuses

Somebody clase to Marquez Jeremy called me up about an item on Jennylyn Mer cado in my previous column. "Why is she denying that she keeps texting Jeremy? A.: her flimsy excuses only prove that she's luding something."

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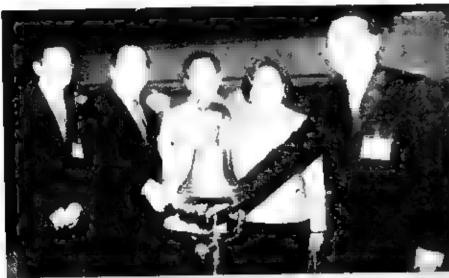
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US firm Mirant to sell RP unit



ONLINE BROKER CitisecOnline.com listed its shares on the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday. From an offer price of PI 36 a share, it rose 23.5 percent to close at PI.68. At the ceremonal ringing of the bell to start the day's trading at the Tektite trading floor are (from left): Citise Online president Conrado Bate and chair Edward K. Lee, PSE president Francis Lim, SEC Commissioner Ma. Juanita Cueto and CitisecOnline vice chair Alexander Yu. (See story on Page 84.)

Policy banning port monopoly reviewed; ICTSI eyes N. Harbor

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE COUNTRY'S PREMIERE SEAPORT FOR international and domestic shipping may soon be managed by a single firm after ports regulators announced a major review of a poricy meant to prevent a port monopoly.

If current trends continue, both the Manila North and South Harbors may end up being operated by International Container Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI), the country's largest private port operator

In a briefing the other day, Philippine Ports Authority general manager Oscar M. Sevilla disclosed that his agency submitted last week its

recommendation to the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) that the policy against a single terminal operator be lifted.

He said the business environment that prompted regulators to put in place antimonopoly rules no longer existed today.

"Actually the reasons that existed before, like why the single operator was not tenable at that time, was because there was no competition," he said. "Today, we have that [competition] already?

He said the operations of Pier 15 were in direct competition with the operations of the North. Harbos, which is dedicated to domestic passen-

By Abegail L. Ho and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

facilities placed at \$3B

Value of power

ATLANTA-BASED MIRANT CORP HAS DECIDED to sell its Philippine subsidiary Mirant Philippines Corp., the country's biggest and highly profitable independent power producer.

The American power firm will also be selling its Carribean business unit as part of plans to focus on its home business as well as to enhance shareholder value following its emergence from Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection just last January.

The planned sales will result in these businesses being reported as 'discontinued operations' beginning in the third quarter of 2006. The sales are expected to close by mid-2007," the company said in a statement.

"As Mirant generates cash from these sales, it plans to continue returning cash to its shareholders while maximizing the value of its net operating loss carryforwards," it added.

Mirant Philippines owns and operates the 1,200-megawatt (MW) Sual and the 73S-MW Pagbilao coal-fired power plants in

Pangasinan and Quezon, respec-

It also holds a 20-percent stake m the 1,200-MW ilijan gas-fired power plant in Batangas.

Its net ownership interest in those three generating farilities come up to 2,203 MW.

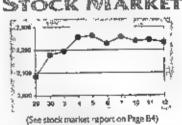
A sale of Mirant's plants in the Philippines which accounts for nearly half of Mirant's overall cash flow-would be the last mafor auction of power assets by a US utility in the region.

The Philippine asset, estimated by some with an enterprise value of nearly \$3 billion, is set to generate strong investor interest because of the lucrative long-term power purchase agreements it holds, banking sources said

Even before Mirant made its decision on the sale, investment banks have started touting the

PESO-DOLLAR RATE D 52.17 = Si As of 5 p.m., July 12, 2006 🎇 114.27 = 💲 I As of 5 p.m., July + 2006 GOLD: \$642,20-642,70

per ounce Hong Kong, July 1, 2006 STOCK MARKET



Stocks end lower

SHARES FELL YESTERDAY AS INVESTORS took profits after the market's recent gains Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. led

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange index tell 11 54 points or 0.5 percent to 2,231 68. after rising 0.2 percent Tuesday

"Coming from a low of 2,049 95 on June 28, we re now up by close to 9 percent. So given that, the market was bound to consoli-STOCKS/B4

IN THIS ISSUE

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Online broker's share price up sharply on detergent on listing day

DTI slaps duty /B4 ingredient -- /B6

Everything is impossible until achieved. The new BMW 520 Diesel. 21.07 kilometers per liter. The comfort of a knowly sector. The advantage of a refined BMW Diesel: . . . The soul of a sports car. The BANK 5204 offers the driving comfort and The 520d accolorates from 0 to 100 kgh in 0.7 The 520d delivered 21.07 lims per liter at the facerity accords and polivers 340km of pulling proving ", recomment level typical of the SANY 5 Series. concluded Department of Energy Fuel Economy Nun. which makes it the most full afficient car in its stigment. with a top speed of 223 light. The new BMW 5 Series. Executive Arrival.

Autohaus BMW 184 E. Hentenpurt J. Rechter, Litter, Chesten Lay = het (DZ) is 1907 is 1

BUSINESS

Foreign investors seen focusing on economic gains

By Doris C. Dumkao

OFFSHORE INVESTORS ARE starting to focus on the country's economic gains while shrugging off sporadic political noises, the country's investor relations offi-

Renato Pizarro, executive director for investor relations at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, said investors who were distracted by recurring politicking in the country were taking a closer look at the country's bright potentials.

"They know that the country's sound macroeconomic fundamentals haven't changed despite high oil prices and global interest rate uncertainties. They are starting to delink political noise from good fundamentals," he said in an interview

From year to date, the peso has swing back to being a net gainer against the dollar on expectations that the US Pederal Reserve's two-year monetary tightening cycle would soon end

Pizarro said ît would be crucial for the government's fiscal managers to sustain recent progress in view of the challenges brought out by the coming election year.

If the government were to meet the P125 billion budget deficit cap, he said that would be a factor that could prompt global rating agencies to raise their credit-rating outlook on the country.

There are other factors like

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hank foreclosed your collateral?

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need to be restructured?

the elections next year and they will see as to what extent that will affect the fiscal momentum," Pizarro said.

The best route would be for the government to be able to follow up fiscal gains with further reforms such as the fiscal incentives rationalization program and the SNITS, he said.

"If all those work, that will be favorable to the fiscal momentum and that could offset some of the risks associated with an election year, * Pizarro said.

He said the market was closely watching whether the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the government's main revenue collection agency, could deliver on its tur-

"You need another six months of favorable fiscal performance,"

A team from US-based Moody's Investor Service is set to visit the Philippine this December and that from London-based Fitch Ratings, in January or February.

An International Monetary Pund team has urged the Philippines to sustain fiscal gains by pursuing more high-quality reforms and avoiding "pro-cyclical" policies or heavy spending during the good times.

It proposed that the government enhance the revenue sys tem even after the value added tax reform by broadening the tax base, including a meaningful rationalization of income tax incen-

AN EXECUTIVE PROM THE LOPEZ GROUP wrote us on that column regarding the Lopez group's recent media blitz for its claim of

ownership of Equitable PCI Bank. The group held a press conference, including television appearance on ANG news channel, owned by the country's biggest network ABS-CBN, in turn controlled by the Lopez group.

Even appearing in the media blitz were the patriarchs of the group, namely Manolo Lopez (Meralco) and Oscar Lopez (First Hold-

ings and Benpres). Following is the letter from Cesar Gomez, an umpire, este, a vice president of First Philippine Holdings Corp. for corporate commanications.

Your June 27 column contained factual errors as follows.

1) First Philippine Holdings Corp. (FPHC) filed a complaint-in-intervention in Civil Case No. 35 before the Sandiganbayan on Dec. 28, 1988, and not 'after 20 years since the family came back from exile in the United States.'

"As stated in the complaint-in-intervention. FPHC assets that ownership of said shares could not have been lawfully transferred because FPHC's rightful owners were then in exile, their business illegally taken over through the use and abuse of power, pressure, threats and intimidation during the Marcos regime.

"In 1996, the Supreme Court upheld the right of FPHC to intervene in the sequestration proceedings on the PCIBank shares held by Trans Middle East (Phils.) Equities Inc. (TMEPEI), since there was no final determination of true ownership.

"When recent news items included reports that in October 2005, Mr. Martin Romualdez withdrew about P138 million from dividends and profit sharing of the shares in question, which shares were held in escrow pursuant to an order of the Sandiganbayan, FPHC caused the filing of an urgent motion before the Sandiganbayan to require EPCIA to explain the reported release of dividends of the shares held in escrow and if indeed there was a withdrawal/s, to require the return of the

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

amounts withdrawn from escrow.

"2) The Lopez family was among the thousands of direct victims of the Marcos regime, and 'their pre-martial law businesses' were taken over forcibly and without just compensation. Any purported sale agreements were only executed under grave duress.

The umpire writes back

3) The Lopez group does not owe EPCIB at

least P6 billion.

So there, ladies and gentlemen, that's the letter from the corporate communications vice president, spoken like a true lawyer.

This little story on a business venture among "friends" perhaps can serve as a warning to us all.

It started when our insurance playboy invited three "friends" to venture into a business related to transport, suggesting that he, as the proponent, would own 40 percent, and each of the three "friends" would get 20 percent.

Two of the friends were Chinese-Filipinos, and judging from the family name (starts with "V") of the third partner, he is pure Fil-

When the incorporation papers were finally done, the handsome son-of-his-father insurance fellow somehow twisted the arm of one of the "friends" to agree to own only 8

What happened to the remaining 12 percent? Well, the proponent got it, thus bringing his total holdings to 52 percent.

That was how he took majority control of the business in which the investments of the "friends" ran to tens of millions. It was not, even to the rich "friends," a joking amount.

As far as the friends could recall, the corporation never had a board meeting. The

playboy proponent was running the business all by himself.

After only a few years, the playboy finally called for a board meeting, in which he unceremoniously demanded the "partners" put in... well, "additional capital."

The capital call did not come as a surprise to the others, actually, because they already knew what happened to their initial invest-

Even before the company could make its first sale, the capital was gone. The playboy used millions upon millions to put up a building, supposedly for the use of the business related to transportation.

All was fine. A building was still a hard asset, after all. Real estate normally does not lose value dramatically. If anything, the partners figured out, the value of building would even appreciate. Their givestment was safe.

Not really! It turned out that the handsome leader of the pack put up the building on a piece of land, the ownership of which was being claimed by his girlfriend, possibly the "No. 2" at that time.

But that was not all, because part of the deal with the girlfriend was that ownership of the building, the one partly financed by the "friends," would be transferred to-who else-the girlfriend after 15 years.

Despite such an arrangement, the business related to transport paid for the lease of the property, which was (in the words of one of the "friends") an "unconscionable amount."

And finally here is the cherry: Somebody eise is claiming ownership of the property. Guess who-the girifriend's in-laws!

The in-laws filed a case, which went all the way to the Supreme Court, over the property on which the "business related to transportation" erected a building, almost wiping out its entire capital.

Question is, what happened to the "friendship" of the four partners. Well, let's just say that I don't suppose that the other three duped partners still fervently pray for long life for the playboy.

US firm Mirant to sell RP unit

portfolios from late last year to potential interested parties around Asia.

Mirant Philippines last year contributed \$370 million in adjusted earnings before in-

terest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (Ebitda) to its parent firm.

Just minutes after getting wind of Mirant's plan to sell its assets in the Philippines, the top players in Philippine business-Metrobank's George Ty, the old rich Ayalas and Aboitizes, and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.'s Manuel V Pangilinan-have expressed strong interest in what power-hungry Philippine market," said Arroyo economic adviser and Albay Rep. Joey Salceda.

The deep-pocketed Filipmo buyers are expected to find stiff competition from overseas such as the AIG group, One Energy (50-50 joint venture between Hong Kong's CLP Holdings Ltd. and Japan's Mitsubishi Corp.), Mit-

subishi Corp., China Light and Power, Korea

Electric Power, Tokyo Electric and Kyushu

Salceda said the divestment of Mirant has sent a rush of excitement in the Philippine en-

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wanted Mirant's existing assets but were also keen to take advantage of new opportunities in the country.

Reacting to the announcement, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said it was "not entirely unexpected, given the financial condition of Mirant Philippines' mother company

He said the government just had to ensure that the buyer or buyers of Mirant's assets would be qualified to perform its obligations to National Power Corp. with regard to the IPP contracts attached to the assets to be placed on the auction block

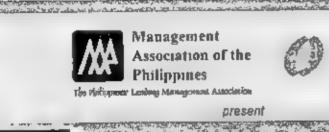
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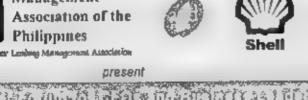
"Government notes that operations in these plants remain profitable and foresee keen interest investors. among Higher expected economic growth supported by rising foreign direct investments demonstrates that investor confidence remains intact and will help sustain the profitability of these plants," Lotilla

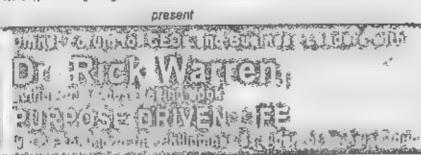
He added that given Mirant Philippines' asset size, more "financially stable, new investors" would likely come in on top of those interested in Napocor assets. With a report from Reuters

statement yesterday.

is being touted as the powerhouse deal of ergy sector as the interested buyers not only the century. "It's a rare chance to buy in one shot an energy platform of 2,203-MW power plants as-The country's most widely SE LEGASPI SUFFER, 176 Salemba St. Legampi Vitanga, Mahari City Tel: Nos. 8182414 | 8184480 Fax No. 8193294 | E-mail: dec@pleidell.net sembled over three administrations in the read and circulated newspaper is in need of: ELECTRICIAN







"Stewardship of influence and Affluence".

Tuesday, 25 July 2006, 6:00 PM, Rizai Ballroom, Makati Shangri-La

You will benefit tremendously from this encounter with Dr Rick Warren as his message will allow you to act. He will challenge us to reach further in life and make a difference n this world. His insight will bring new revelation and opportunity to us for the future

Even our relationships will be empowered. There is a cost to growing but it will cost more not to grow! You will definitely leave the Forum changed, and with a new zeal n your soul; ready to impact your world. You have been bessed to be a blessing to others



Dr. Warren's wife, MS. KAY WARREN, Author, Teacher, and Co-founder of Seddleback Church and Acts of Marcy, will speak before MAP on 24 July 2006. Monday, 12:00 Noon, Grand Ballroom, Hotel Inter-Continental Manda. Her tools will be "HOW TO BE JOYFUL NO MATTER WHAT" (Political crisis, Economic crisis, Family crisis, Personal crisis...).

Call 751-1149 to 52 now for the Early Bird Rates! Fax to the MAP Secretariat via

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NOTICE OF MEETING ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

PICPA Building, 700 Shaw Boulevard

Mandaluyong City

To ALL PICPA Members:

In accordance with the provisions of Article XIII, Section 1 and 3 of the By-Laws of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants, notice is hereby given that the Anoual Membership Meeting will be on Friday, July 21, 2006 at 1:00 pm at the Grand Ballroom, Hotel Intercontinental, Makati City.

1. Call to Order

2. Proof of Publication of Notice of Meeting

3. Certification as to Presence of Quorum

Reading and Approval of Minutes of Provious Meeting **Business Arising from the Minutes**

Report of the President

Report of the Treasurer

New Business

Determination of the place of the next annual meeting

10. Adjournment

We urge all members to attend the Annual Membership Meeting. For members who cannot be present in person, please accomplish and return to us the general proxy form. The general proxy form can be downloaded from the PICPA website www.picpa.com.ph or can be obtained from the PICPA National and Chapter Offices.

> (Ducel t. de De National Secretary

BUSINESS

LEGEND INTERNATIONAL RESORTS LTD.

chief executive officer Khoo Boo Boon is not

Tm a director of a company in the Philip-

pines. If I allow an execution of a foreign or-

der, I will be personally held criminally habie

(under Philippine laws)," Khoo told reporters

on the sidelines of CitisecOnline.Com's public

listing at the Philippine Stock Exchange yes-

down by a Hong Kong court, which put the Hong Kong-based LIRL under liquidation and

directed services firm Alvarez & Marsal to

Khoo denied allegations that he had mis-

managed the company to the point that it was

no longer able to settle debts and remit rev-

co, who was tasked to take over the day to day

operations of the company, meanwhile said in

a statement that the company was running

the risk of having its operations deteriorate even further if no management changes were

The business is not sustainable in its pre-

sent situation. Without a casino license, the

business won't survive. It has to be managed

properly, marketed properly and (it has to

have) good relations with Pagcor (Philippine

Amusement and Gaming Cosp.) and SBMA

(Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority)," Yu-

Alvarez & Marsal director Martin Yupang-

take over the company's management

enues to the government.

Khoo was reacting to the order handed

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

seaving his post without a light.

Legend CEO bucks order of HK court

Boon questions validity of order in RP

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A GROUP OF CEMENT MAKERS YESterday said prices of basic building materials like cement were high in certain areas of the country because of collusion among some dealers

High cement

prices traced

to cartels

Ernesto M. Ordoñez, president of the Cement Manufacturers Association of the Philippines, said manufacturers have not increased their prices in the last five months and that they were in fact absorbing part of increased costs incurred during that period.

But retail prices have gone up in some areas because a number of dealers have banded together to control the seiling prices of cement.

He cited the case in Benguet where cement was being sold at P195 for a 40kilogram bag, much lugher than the suggested price of P175.

He said Cemap had coordinated with the Department of Trade and Industry on the matter and that efforts had led to the arrest of four people.

"After the arrests, prices of cement sectled at the suggested price, which indicates (collusion) among dealers to set prices," Ordonez said

Cemap had been under fire due to what its critics say were abnormally high prices of materials such as cement at a time of excess production capacity.

Ordonez said manufacturers last increased their prices by 5-9 percent in January due partly to the rise in the va-

LIRL, the operator of the Legend Hotel and Casino in the former US military base, was placed under liquidation last June 9

The appointment of a liquidator stems from a petition filed last November 3, 2004 by Morgan Stanley Emerging Markets Inc., a creditor of LIRL, to liquidate or sell the assets of LIRL for its failure to pay its debts.

Morgan Stanley claumed in its petition before the Hong Kong court (the equivalent of the Philippines' Court of Appeals) that LIRL owes it and another investment firm, Avenue Capital, roughly \$120 milbon.

LIRL owes another P365 million to Pagcon, which ordered LIRL to close its casino operations two months ago over the unpaid hills. Lawyer Conrado Dar Santos, counsel for the liquidators, said that under Hong Kong law, the high court can place financially distressed companies under liquidation and appoint liquidators to rehabilitate ail-

Tension rose on Monday when Khoo refused to recognize his successors. His men even drove the group of Kelvin Flynn, managing director of Alvarez & Marsal, our of the

Flynn added that he had visited the Subic property on Monday but was blocked by Khoo from implementing management changes at the hotel and Subic properties as part of the liquidation proceedings.

He claimed Khoo had prevented his access to the Subic properties—consisting of Legenda Sizites, Grand Seasons Hotel and Legend Hotel, which houses the casino.

и became independent upon the issuance of

R.A.No. 4669 on June 18, 1966. It is a pearl-

shaped island, which has an area of about

It is the smallest province in Region 10 rep-

estenning 1.7 percent of the total land area of

Northern Mindanao (1,401.891 hectares)

The province is composed of five manicipali-

ties and 58 barangays. Of the 5 municipali-

nes, Mambajao accounted for 37 percent of

the total land area. Guinsiliban had the small-

est share at 8 percent. Catarman had the sec-

and largest share of 22.5 percent followed by

The island province's economy continues

(Author is an advocate for Mindango and

to improve over the years as indicated by im-

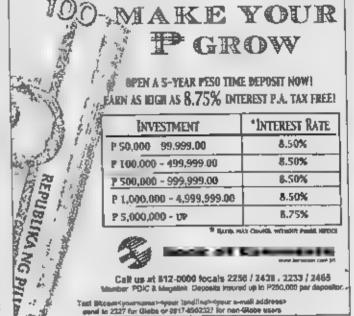
chair of Joji Ilagan Foundation. Email com-

provements in its vital economic indicators.

238.63 square kilometers.

Mahinog, which is 14 percent

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Interested bidders who are not yet accredited must submit the following requirements to be eligible for bidding

Company Profile

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List of Clients served

For purposes of clarification and details of the items due for bidding a pre-bid conference will be held at 10:30 a.m. on July 20, 2006 at the

Bids must be delivered to the address above on or before 2:00 p.m. on July 21, 2005 accompanied by bidder's bond equivalent to five percent [5%] of the bid price. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidder or hidder's representative at the address above at 2:00 p.m. on July 21

The Bids and Awards Committee

Camiguin: Tourism, 'lanzones' and windmills security noted. A former sub province of Misamis Oriental,

MINDANAWORLD

I WAS ON THE ISLAND OF CAMIGUIN LAST week for the 5th Mindanao Human Resource Skills Forum, which was attended by over 300 technical vocational schools administrators / owners and the key people in all the Technical Education Skills Development Authority (Tesda)offices in Mindanao.

Governor Pedro "Loloy" Romualdo, who is a great supporter of this sector, honored as with his presence during the closing ceremomes together with Tesda Deputy Director General Santiago Yabut

The governor proudly spoke of this island paradise and its White Island, Mantigue Isand, Katibawasan Falls, Sto. Nino Cold Spring, and the world famous volcano crater of Mt Hibok Hibok

This island also played host to the Queen of Spain a few months ago. The Spanish government is now seriously looking into the possibility of putting up wind mills in Carnigum can be a major source of cheap power and energy. Also, windmilis will be a great tourist attraction. I think this will soon come true because a Spanish technical team. was in Camiguin last week to talk with the

Lanzones is one of the trademark of this island, and I was told that its sweetness was due to the combination of volcante soil and weather in the area. It is a seasonal fruit. With the current technology, I wonder if it is possible to grow lansones all throughout the year.

2005, of which 171,827 were local tourists. 4,162 foreign murists and 381 balikbayans. Visitors from the United States, Japan and Korea comprised the bulk of the foreign tourists Most of the local investments in the tourism sector were owned by locals who married foreigners.

The local government is now embarking on what it calls corporate tourism

The development of the tourism sector will be led by the private sector and the government will just provide the infrastructure support. Attractive incentives will be given to investors and the cost of doing business in the island will be minimal. There will be very lit-

Joji Ilagan-Bian

tle or no bureaucracy that normally confronts investors in the course of doing business. Through the years, the island province has

been showing economic developments with trade and investments pouring in, partiaularly in the services sector. The services sector was a major contributor in the idand's invest ments growth in 2005

The value of trade and investments recorded by the Department of Trade and Industry rose by 38.21 percent to P340 million in 2004 from P246 million in 2003. However, no new SEC-registered investment in Camagum was noted during the period

The province's agriculture sector also showed increase production rates in 2004. Palay production increased by 15.38 percent while the rest of Northern Mindanao reported a slight decline. This was attributed to the increased unlization of hybrid seeds. For the fourth quarter of 2004, Region 10 had a supply of 157,476 MT of corn as against demand of 27,730.03 MT, or a a surplus of 129,745.97 MT

Region 10 exports in 2004 amounted to US\$459 million, an increase of 25 percent A total 176,370 tourist visited the island in from \$ 368 million in 2003. However, Camigun's share is lowest at 0.02 percent, the more reason that Camiguin should focus

on tourism as its economic driver. Camiguin is one of the most peaceful islands in the Philippines, About 97 percent or 72 out of 74 crimes reported in the area in 2004 were solved. There is no indication of dissident terrorists or threats to national

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1 Lot Supply, Debyery and Installation of Systems Furnisms at LBP Cabanamer	P3,127 000 00	July 27 2006 2 00 pm	August 9. 2006 1:00 PM	P1,800.00

The Bid Documents shall be available at the General Services Department starting July 13, 2006 upon payment of non-relandable statutural payment of non-relanda The Pre-Bid Conference shall be held at GSO Bidding Room. 25th Flour, LANDBANK Plaze. 1598 M. H. del Plan St. Malete Marida

The bridges shall drop their duly accomplianed eigsblity requirements, technical and sounces proposals in three separate assisted envelopée in the baj box located at the abovementationed address.

For more information, please call the LBP Regulations Management Division of telephone nos 551 2200 locals 2452 2453, 7235 5 7234

LANDBANK resonves the right to occupt or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, epithous thereby incurring any liability to the effected bidder(s)

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (PDF: July | J.A. 26, 1986)



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MISTOCK EXPLANCE

(As of July 12, 2006)

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Ever Laresco Resources
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Olohai Telecom Phile Ing. Globa Telecom Inc Prepino Tel Corp Phil Long Dis Tel Co

Leisuve & Resorte Corp. Manita Jockey Ship Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc. Waterfront Philis Inc.

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Ipeople Inc

Ellebel Equities Inc.

CONSTRUCT

Online broker's share price up sharply on listing day

Lepanto to open copper mine in Benguet

AFTER SUSPENDING ITS COPPER OPERAtions for about five years, Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. is re-opening its copper mine in Mankayan, Benguet Province in view of the rising meta, prices in the world market, Lepanto chair Felipe Yap said.

Yap said copper prices had surged to a high of \$3 a pound in the international market this year, from a low of 70 cents in 2001. The low copper prices then made it difficult for the company to continue operating the copper mine in 2001.

Yap and Lepanto's copper mine would restart commercia, operations by September:

Lepanto was incorporated in 1936, it used to operate an energite copper mine until 1997, when it shifted to gold builion production through its Victoria Project in Benguet.

Lepanto operated a copper floration plant from August 2000 to December 2001, when copper operations were suspended.

Lepanto sells its gold bullion production to Johnson Manney and Heraeus Ltd (Hong Kong) its copper concentrates were sold through metals trading firms Trafigura Be-heer and Centrotrade Minerals and Metals, which are based in Switzerland and Canada, Elisabeth L. Sanches

BancNet ties up with China's CUP

AUTOMATED TELLER MACHINE CONSORnum BancNet Inc. seeks to draw more tourists from mainland China to the Phil.ppines via its link-up with China Unionpay (CUP), the only payment gateway in emerging Asia's stellar

In an interview, Angelito Villanueva, BancNet chair and director of Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., said the interconnection with CUP would boost tourism in the country by giving Chanese tourists access to BancNet ATMs

BancNet started making available its ATMs to CUP cardholders in October .24t year. Soon, BancNet cardholders would also be able to do banking transactions using any CUP terminal in China, Villanueva said

"It's a less expensive gateway, with a fee of only about \$1 (per transaction)," he said The Circus Maestro gateway charges \$3.50

(P185) per transaction.

CUP is the only switch for ATMs and point of sale terminals in China. It has 800 million cardholders, more than 80,000 ATMs and 40,000 POS terminais all over China.

BancNet, which is celebrating ats 16th anniversary, has 4 million active cardholders.

"The use of ATMs is already moving toward maturity but the market is so big. There are only 12 million (ATM) cardholders out of a population of 85 million," Villanueva said.

Market sees promising growth prospects in company's business

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE SHARE PRICE OF ONLINE BROKER CE tisecOnline.Com posted a sharp rise during its listing yesterday.

From its offer price of P1 36 per share, CitisecOnline or COL share price rose 23.5 percent to close at P1.68 per share, which was arso its day-high. Total volume traded yesterday was placed at 6.65 million shares.

CitisecOnline is the second company to be listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange this year after power producer First Generation

CitisecOnline president Conrado Bate said the company raised P149.6 million from its natial public offering, which made available 110 million shares at P1.36 per share.

Local analysts said the growth prospects of the broker's line of business looked promis-Online brokering or trading may be a

growth area if it reaches a critical mass and is cost effective," an analyst said Another analyst said CitisecOnline offered

a steep discount to its offer price, luring the interest of market players.

CitisecOnline's share performance on its IPO day beat those of larger companies, including First Gen whose stock price ended weaker at P45 50 on its listing day.

The company is facing a breach of trademark rights mut, which was filed by American financial conglomerate Gitigroup Inc. and banking unit Citibank N.A. with the Makati Regional Trial Court. The court will start hearing the case today.

In its complaint filed on June 30, Citigroup claimed that the use of the names bearing "cid" by GinsecOnine and Citisecurities Inc constituted a breach of trademark rights over fits registered "Citi" marks, including "citibank," "citicard," "citicorp," "citidirect," "citifinancial," "citigroup," "citiphone" and

"We are not taking this case very lightly. We are flattered that one of the largest companies in the world are going after us. The possible downside here is a change in name. It is not huge. There is no risk of us closing down or not being able to serve our clients anymore. We are confident that we will be able to keep our name." Bate said

CitisecOnline will use the bulk of the IPO proceeds to support new products that it will launch in the next few months and to upgrade its online trading technology, CitisecOnline has grown its clients to 600 to date. Its average monthly trades stood at P154 million in the first six months of this year, higher than P72 million in 2005.

Bate said the company has returned to profit this year and it hoped to remain profitable in the coming years.

CinsecOnline plans to offer credit lines to small and medium investors that can be used for trading under the so called "margin financing

CitisecOnline chair Edward Lee said the group was also developing its online trading website for the Hong Kong and China markets through wholly-owned subsidiary CitisecOnine Com Hong Kong Ltd., a member of the Hong Kong bourse.



PETRON chair Nicasio Alcantara (right) hands over a check worth P375 million to Philippine National Oil Co. president and CEO Eduardo Mañalac (left) while Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla looks on. The amount represents cash dividends paid by Petron to PNOC, which holds 3.75 billion Petron shares or 40 percent of the oil firm.

Finance open to a P10-B cut in BIR '07 target

By Doris C. Dumiso

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE said it was willing to slash by P10 billion the Bureau of Internal Revenue's P793-billion collection target for 2007 to factor in certain adjustments in the implementation of the expanded valueadded tax law.

Government sources privy to a recent meeting of the Inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Committee said the DOF was, however, not keen on thang-

ing the BIR's revenue target for P10-billion cut. They said finance 2006 until actual collections in the first semester had come in

The BIR had actually requested the DBCC to lower the revenue agency's 2007 collection target by P24 billion. It also wants the taxes collected on government securities be reported separately since "the BIR should neither be penalized nor benefited from any shortfall of overperformance in the collection of the taxes on government securities."

The DOR according to the sources, was amenable to a mere

officials recognized the need to scale down the agency's target for next year because the 2007 budget was based on the projected revenue collections of BIR for 2006, wherein P40 billion was projected to come from administrative mearures recently implemented

Por this year, Revenue Commissioner Jose Bunag is seeking a correction in the reformed VAT projections. The DOF had projected additional revenue of P80 billion from the reformed VAT law.

However, sources said that as the 2-percentage-point increase in the VAT rate to 12 percent was implemented only starting February instead of January, the projected collection should be reduced to P75 billion

But there was an error in splitding the VAT collection task between the BIR and the Bureau of Customs as the government used the 2004 data which showed more domestic oil production than imports, thus requiring a reallocation of collections from the BiR to BOC.

St. Luke's unit to offer shares to doctors

ST. LUKE'S GLOBAL CITY MEDICAL ARTS Arts Building that will house 375 doctors' Building Corp., owned largely by one of the country's largest hospitals, is plenning to offer P1.56 billion worth of shares exclusively to its doctors to ruse fresh funds to partly finance the construction of a P7-bil tion world-class hospital in Port Bonifacio, Taguig City, an official told Inquires.

In an interview, St. Luke's Medical Center (SLMC) president Jose Ledesma said the St. Luke's medical group would remain a non-stock and non-profit corporation, clarifying that the share sauance would not be a public offering.

The shares to be issued will give doctors the right to occupy medical clinics in the new Medical Arts Building in Fort Bonifacio that would be built by the SLMC Group.

An application to register these shares was flied with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) yesterday.

The company will use funds from the exarting nospital in Quezon City to finance

the bulk of the project cost. The new hospital will have two towers-one of which is the proposed Medical

offices. The second tower is a 14-story hospital building for patients with 600 beds.

The proposed hospital will sit on a 1.6hectare lot with a gross floor area of 154,000 square meters and will be one of the biggest hospitals in the metropolis in terms of total floor space

Construction of the new hospital has yet to start after the SLMC Group awards the construction to interested bidders this month. Excavation on the site, to lay the groundwork for the construction, has started early this year.

Ledesma said the new hospital was experted to generate 2,700 new jobs for nonmedical staff. It will bring in about 1,000 doctors, partly from St. Luke's in Quezon City.

Even with the new hospital, St. Luke's will continue to operate its world-class hospital in Quezon City.

SLMC in Ouezon City is touted as the most advanced hospital in the country in terms of medical equipment and technology, professional expertise, range of services, quality of patient care, medical research and Elwabeth L. Sanches customer service.

From page Bil

ger and cargo shipping. The more recently built Harbor Center is also a direct competitor.

Sevilla indicated that Neda officials have questioned the move to allow Manila's major ports be run by a single entity, but assured that the threat of a monopoly no longer existed today.

"The fear of monopoly is gone," he said. "It is no longer applicable now.

Sevilla said that ICTSI has expressed interest in North Harbor's operations, adding that the firm's executive vice president, Edgardo Abesamis, has expressed interest in the project, especially if it is found to be a viable business.

Officials of Harbor Center, Lorenzo Shipping Corp. and Maganysay Shipping Lines live also met with the PPA chief to inquire about the status of privatization pians for the port, which Sevilla said might be completed "within the year." Neda's representative to the PPA board had

indicated that it would take at least 30 days for the policy to be decided on. As an added justification, Sevilla said that

cutting up North Barbor's operations might not make business sense and could spot, its

"If you will divide North Harbor because of the volume, it might not attract bidders," he said, adding that offering the port in its entirety would give the winning bidder the right to develop the entire fachity, and give them the leeway to develop not only cargo facilities but even the terminal that may be used for

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Switze/land	Franc	0 638		0.816060	42 5983
Cenada	Dollar	0.691		0.663783	46 1335
Singapore	Dollar	0.495		0.633392	33 0631
Australia	Doller	0.588	594	0.752106	39.2599
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Argentine	Peso Rual	0 358		0.458400	23 9285
Brazili Danmark	Kroner	0.136		0.171265	8 9400
India	Rupes	0.017		0.02 734	1 1345
Malaysis	Pinggri	0.214		0.273973	14,3014
Mezico	New Peso	0 07		THE PERSON	4 7571
New Zealand	Dollar	0.480	739	0.614288	32 0658
South Africa	Rand	0.111	2051	0.140623	7 3405
Koran	Won	0 00		0.001058	0.0551
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Stocks				From page 6	
- dare " said AR (Capital Securit	ies cent	ter one	cator SPI Tec	THIOOTICS.

center operator SPI Technologics date," said AB Capital Securities analyst Erwin Bauta

Balitz said he remained cautiously optimistic over the marker's prospects, given recent economic

news, which showed inflation still at manageable levels and exports growing at double-digit rate. Weighing heavily on the index, PLDT jost 0.8 percent at P1 950, in

step with the 1.7-percent loss by the company's American Depositary Receipts in New York Tuesday. The stock also fell on profit-rating after rising during the previous session on the company's announcement it has completed the acquisition of call

Other stocks that weighed on the market were Bank of the

Philippine Islands, off 2 percent at P48.50, and SM Prime, lower by 2.6 percent at P7.60. Limiting the market's loss, Ay-

ala Land gained 2.1 percent at P12,25 on 15,65 mulion shares traded, making it the most active-

ly traded stock. Philex Min.ng "A" and "B" each rose 1.3 percent to close at P4 and P4.05 respectively on higher world metal prices

Decliners led gainers 37 to 28, while 61 stocks were unchanged. AP

Morrer Road, Fort Bondacio. 1200 Taguag City, Phiappines P.O. Bon 2: D2 MCPO, Tal. Nos. 883-8901 to 47/853-1320 Figs No. 840-1575

PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO RE-BID PNOC-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) Invites interested contractors registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) and classified at least, as Category C & D / U/C Small Sub-Category 8 for General Engineering or General Building to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

CONSTRUCTION OF THE LEYTE GEOTHERMAL PRODUCTION FIELD (LGPF)
PAD 405 AND PAD 407 PIPE TRENCHES EOC 88-021 1

The Approved Budget is P4.287,910.00 chargestile against PNOC-EDC fund. The contract duration is 120 calendar days.

Application Forms for Englishing and Std Documents may be negated from the PMCC-EUC Contracts Administration Group (ob. N. A. Nizolascos) starting July 13, 2006 upon payment of a non-refundable less of Peace; Five Hundred Peace (Php 500.00). She inspection shall be conducted on July 25, 2008, 10 A.M. at the Layte Geothermal Production Field (LGPF). For the surpose of clarifying cartain leaves, a pre-bid conference will be held on August 1, 2006, 10:00 A.M. at PNOC-EDC, 1st Floor Building 5, PNOC-EDC, Fort Bondscio, Tagaig City, Metro Manilla.

Applications for Eligibility and seeled bids shell be received by the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group at PNOC-EDC, tet floor Bidg 5, Fort Boreladio, Teguing City Metro Mankle, not leter them 200 pure, on August 16, 2005 and shall be publicly pound immediately themselver. ed immediately thereafter

PNOC EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informally therein, to abort the bidding process, to accept such bids or to sward any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is onsuldered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC

(PD1-daily L3, 2500)

STA. ROSA, LAGUNA 20-hour water cutoff

SOME AREAS OF MANILA WILL HAVE NO water for 20 hours starting 11:30 p.m., Saturday, July 15, until 7:30 p.m., Sunday, July 16.

The water service interruption is due to the replacement of the existing 500mm-diameter gate valve along United Nations Avenue cor. A. Mabini St., Ermita, Manila.

The areas that will have no water for 20 hours are the following: the area bounded by Luneta, UN Avenue, M.H. Dei Pitar, A. Mabint St., Padre Faura St., M. Adriatico St., Pedro Gil St. (West), Pres. Qurino Avenue (West) and San Andres St (West); rhe area bounded by UN Avenue, Taft Avenue, Pres. Oujmoo Avenue and Roxas Soulevard; and the area bounded by UN Avenue, Tripa De Galina, Pedro Gu St and Talt Avenue.

The repair and maintenance works are part of Maynilad's continuing program to upgrade and improve its service to customers to these areas.

Affected customers are advised to store water good for the duration of the water service interruption. They may also call Maynilad Water Hotline 1626 or text Maynilad through SMART 7001626 for the water-rationing schedule.

A DAVAO CITY WATER DISTRICT J.P Laurel Ave. Daviso City Tot. #221 9400

INVITATION FOR BEST OFFER

(2nd PUBLICATION)

- The Owner City Water District, through the Approved Budget for 2005 intends to apply the sum of P750.000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments tarder contract as tisted below. Other received in except of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of bid/other
- The Deveo City Water District new invites Bidstaller for the Supply of One (1) unit 2nd hand Water Tenlow Infended for the housing of water for human consumption will the following descriptions:

Losding Capacity 14 cu. Melec Autonom Tank.

- The event shall be given to the Lound Colouteted and Responsive Bid However the units is subject for the Inspection of the DCWD authorized representative as part of the evaluation procedure before the desert observed. 8 wheelers and a good naming conditions
- Please stack ploture and copy of latest registration coefficial

8 cylinder

- interested Biddens may obtain further information from Deven City Water District and inspect the Bidding Decuments at the address given below from 6:00 a.m.
- Bid opening shall be at the DCWO SAC-A Secretarial Office, 4.P. Laural Ave. Beyade, Device City on July 27, 2006 © 9:00 n.m.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the Biddets' representatives who choose to arrend at the address below.

The Caveo City Water District receives the right to accept or reject any BML to ennut the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract exect, without thereby incurring any leading to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Baveo City Water District BAC-A

LP caurel Ave.. Bajada. Davao City Tet. No. 22 1.9400 (8000) E-mail add dowl til davao-mater.go 22 1-9400 (8000) dowd 2 dayso-water.gov.ph Fax No. 224-5392 www.dayao-weller.gov.ph

(Sgd.) VIRGINIA S. MARIMON BAC-A Champerson

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Califrest (0917) 8213945 Landline: (DZ) 7813530



SE TOWN 8342986 8040484

OBITUARIES

FLORENTINA L. SALAS

February 5, 1913 to July 11, 2006

Has peacefully joined her Creator on July 11, 2006 at the age of 93.

Her children Ernie Salas & ChiChi; grandchildren Rhoda, Jun-Jun, Ronnie (†), Carlo & Patrice; great granddaughter Patty, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for her eternal rest and everlasting happiness.

Her remains lie in state at San Francisco Chapel, Sanctuario de San Antonio, Makati City.

Interment will be on Saturday, July 15, 2006 at 3:00 p.m. at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at San Francisco Chapel, Sanctuario de San Antonio, Makati City.





Supreme Court A 19

Landbank &

Samar I Electric **B3**

Peacefully joined our Creator on July 9, 2006 at the age of 88.

Children, Lourdes, Myrna, Manuelito (†), Avelino, Danilo (†), Betty, Mario, Wilfredo (†), Mamerto (†), Morris, Melandro, Matthew and Melissa; daughters-in-law; sons-in-law. grandchildren and great grandchildren; nephews and meces; relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains he in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Inc. at Araneta Avenue, Quezon City

Interment will be on Saturday, July 15, 2006 at Eternal Gardens after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Arlington Memorial Chapels.



invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid Republic of the Philippines Province of Nueva Vizceya

Municipality of Science Design, Site Development and Construction of the Proposed New Solano Public/Commercial Market Armex Building Project

Design and Construct/Build Scheme

The Monicipality of Science, by Writins of a dialy approved Serggunian Seyen Recolution, has authorized the Horizestale Mayor Servings O. Dicknow to secure a form from the caris Benth of the Philippress for the payment under the contest. Design, Site Correlapment and Construction of the Proposed New Science Public/Commercial Market Annex Sustaing - DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT/SUILD SCHEMIE. The Municipality of Soleno letently to expoly the sum of SIXTY FIVE MPLLION PESOS (R65.000.001) being the Approved Budget for Context (ABC) as payments under the context for the Design. Size Opvetopremet and Construction of the Proposed New Soleno Public/Commercial Municipal Annex Building, Buds received in except of the ABC shall be automatically resisted in fold opening.

Beta received in secrets of the ARC shall be automatically rejected in fold opening.
The flantaineity of Science frequenting Beta and Awards Commission (BAC), now calls for the submission of the seter of invests. (Cost team potential proponeins fladders to apply to elegately for the Design Ske Development and Construction of the Proposed New Science Purble/Commercial Market Aureus Burting. Bibliotes shaped possess a visibly PCAR Incerso applicable in the above type and cost of the corporate of construction of a studies are tally present (50%), piths ABC, and meet the other moreover constructs a studies commerce with a value of at least thy persons (50%), piths ABC, and meet the other moreover beginning to state of the English (Proporting Science) Services Oftics Now-Municipal Hospital Science and Control Science (10%), piths ABC and the Proposition of the Proposition of the Proposition of the evaluation of a possion of the Science (10%), piths and proposition of the grotted to purchase the Britishing Documents.

Bitting will be concluded through open compatitive bidding procedures as specified in the implementing Putes and Reputators Part A (MRF). A) of Peputate Apt 9184 (RA 9184), bitterwee twown as the "Government Procedenters. Reform Act., and is recented, unless otherwise stated, only to organizations with of less several, five percent PSPs, interest or custated og capital stock belonging to obtain a risk Philippines for accordance with the IRRIA of R.A. 9184, only Bids from discable Proportions-Budders with be opened. In scooldance with the IRRIA of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Proportions and the second second as such during the post-qualification.

	BAC Activities	
1	Patroeigi trom prospective bidders of Letters of	July 7 23, 2008
	Intent (LON including Application for Eligibility	
2	Issuance of Eligibity Forms	July 10: 27, 2006
8.	Receipt or Enginery Requestrems	July 26 August 4, 2006
4	Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	August 9, 2006
5	A ST TRANSPORT OF THE PARTY.	August 11 15, 2005
	Pre-bid Conference	August 16, 2005
7	Biodelica Colored Colored	August 17 23, 2005
	Submission of Michinectural Design	August 30 September 6, 2006
	Result for the selection of Arctitectural Design	Septembar 2,2006
	Issuance of Bio Documents	September 13 20, 2006
	Supplementa Bid Bulletin	September 28 2006
	Recept and Opening of Bids	October 27 2006
	Evaluation of Inwast Calculated Bid	Detaber 30 November 8, 2005
	Post-qualification	November 8 (5 2006
	Resolution of Award	Discourse II. Pall

temporaried Proponents-Budders disty secure and pary the amount of One Thousand Piscos (Ph.000 00) for the elegisticy documents and externit their accomplished. Engainly Documents with the corresponding copy of the externit receipt (O.P.) of the purchase to the EAC Secretariation or before the date acheduled. The documents expand in the Englishy Documents shall be submitted as part of the Technical Documents of the Proponential Budders as provided in the Instituctions in Proponential Budders.

Interested elligible Proponents/Buddern way obtato further information from the Municipal Government of Sollano and inspect the Britishing Documents at the BAC Socretanas, Municipal General Services Office, Sciano, Naziwa Vizzalya figor 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM of September 13 20, 2008.

Elephin Programm is Finddom much submit their Auchitectural Plants and Outline Epocilications at the BAC

The Municipal Generalizated Solano will held a Pre-Bid Conterance open in all Eligible Proponents Biddess et poherbited on August 16, 2005, 0:00 AM, at the Function Room, Naw Municipal Hell, Solano, Nuive Vissaya.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Proporteris Bidding that passed the display check and the minimum architectural plans design and outline specifications design ordinal, on the falle as scheduled and some the presonation of the Plobbe of Englishly to the BAC Secretarial, and upon payeast of a recombinishle fee of TWD TROUSAND PESOS (P2,000.0). This Bidding Documents shall be recomed personally by the Proporterial date or his duly authorized representative as scheduled. English Propongeta/Skictors must submit their Birds at the address below on or before October 27, 2006

at 10 00 AM. All Bids resist be occurrenced by a Bid Security as governed by the personal provisions of RA 9184. Lake Bids street mucker accorpant. Bid opening shall be on October 27, 2006. 10 40 AM & 1 the Function Robert, Mee Alexangud 14at, Selano, Nueve Vezagau. Bids wild be opened in the presence of Bidder's representativistic who choose to allowed at the address before an October 27, 2006, 10:00 AM as medica Piccar, New Mancopal Hall, Solano, Nueva Vizzaya

Programming-Middions recent be willing to occept prepresents in the force of costs, broads and office forms of financies restrictions and/or force term occurrents, and rough be capable of underlyining the project editor on a Sent-Tues-Key or Term-Keys boots

The required number of days to complete the works is 360 calender days.

This Mountainly of Science reserves the sight to accept or reject very Bid, to arrush the hidding process and to report all Stats at any from point to contract animal without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Propenents/Buthins

Number: The perspective bidder agrees and binds is all to abide by the first decision of the marrises of the BAC and further among any togat across or observe agrees the LSU of Satano pertaining to the project increasing the future.

BAC Cheiman ne oi Oilice Office Address Telephone Number FAX Number MR ARMER, G. DOMINGEL Municipal General Services Office Man Municipal Heb. Brgy. Robuss. Science, Narval ylectyre

Serverse of the BAC Chamman of Authorized Representative of the

1996 Judy 6 A 13 200m



BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE-INFRASTRUCTURE Cebu Caostol, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BIS

The Province of Cebo, through its Bids and Awards Committee-Infrastructure (BAC-INFRA) invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility to ted for the hereunder contract: Proposed 2-Classroom School Building Name of Contract

the Contract

Proposes 2 (3rd District)
Candugay ErS Sanit, SM Pañeres NHS, Senit, Mantalongon
NHS, Sanit: Alogurean NHS, Alogurean, Angten NHS,
Alogurean, Anepog NHS, Pinamungehan, Buantoy Man

NHS, Balambert, Nangka NHS, Balambert, Sta. Lucia NHS. Astures. and Tuburan NHS, Tuburan, Province of Cebu Brief Description Approved Budget for :Construction of 2-Classroom Schoolbuildings P 6,232 439.09

Contract Duration 135 Calandar Days Prospective bidders chould possess valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have complemed a servicer contract with a value of all inner 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC-SHFRA will use nondiscribionary pass / fair criteria in the Electrify Check / Screening as well as in the Preference Exemples of Bids. The BAC-MFRA will conduct post-qualification of the

All particulors retailed to Eligibility Statements and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-badding Contenence, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Content shall be governed by the partment provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A).

	BAC-INFRA ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
£	Receipt from prospective bridgers of Lediers of Interst (LOQ) including Applications for Elegibidity	July 7 – 13, 2008
2	Issuance of Ehothsty Forms	July 7 - 13, 2006
3.	Recept of Etgoetry Requirements	July 13, 2008
4	Nonce of Results of Eligibility Check	July 18, 2008
5.	Issuance of Bidding Documents	July 19, 2006
6.	Pro-bid Conterence	July 20 2006
7	Receipt and Opening of Bids	August 01, 2006

The SAC-RETA Secretarist will issue to prospective broter's Eightey Forms of the Provinced Engineer's Office, Legislative Bustong, Capital Compound, Cabit Cay, upon their submission of a Letter of learnt and upon payment of a non-valundative amount of Fifty Pesce (P 50 90) to the Cash Davision, Provinced Transparen's Othor. Prospective bidges shall withright the Eightey Requirements to any many also obtain the submission of the Eightey Check from the advancement of the Cash Davision. address. For further inquiries, one stay call the Secretarist at (002) 255-6123

The BAC-NFRA will trave Bidding Occurrents including Plans and Specifications, only to bodies declared by the BAC-NFRA to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-relundable amount of Four Thousand Poscs (F 4,000.00) to the Cesh Division, Provinced

The Provence of Cobo assumes no exponsibility whatsoever to compensate or importally butters for any expenses recursed to the proposition of the total and, reserves the eight to reject any and all bids, were any defect to informatily in the bids, declare a lawne of busing

(Sgd.) EOUARDO'T HABIN

(POI - July 7 to 13, 2006)

BUSINESS

DTI slaps duty on detergent ingredient



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
AND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE East Avenue Quezor City

E-mail Address: Itombou@No.gov ph " Website, www.lto.gov.pb

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid Republic of the Philippenes

PROCUREMENT OF TWO-WAY RADIO COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT

The Land Trensportation Office, through Fund 51 (MVUC) intends to apply the sum of Two Million Nine Hundred Thirty Four Thousand Three Hundred Sixteen Pesos (P2 934,316.00) being the Approved Budger for the Contract (ABC) of payment for the procurement of two-way adio communication equipment Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid operand.

The Land Transportation Office now arrites Blos from eligible Bidders for the The required delivery schedule will be indicated in the approved Contract. The description of an eligible Biddar is contained in Section of the Bidding

Bidding will be conducted through open compessive bidding procedures using nondiscretionary passifall criteria as specified in the implementing Rules and Regulations Par. A (IRR A) or Republic Act 9184 otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act " and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietoistaps, organizations with at least styty percent (60%) interest or constanding capital stock belonging to clazens of the Phappines, and to catzens or organizations capital stack belonging to classified to the Principles. And to the control of a country the laws or regulations of which grant sindler eachs or privileges to Filippine citizens pursuant to Republic Ac. 5183 (R.A. 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act. 38 °C.A. 138). Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lawest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to linally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and linencies requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calcutated and Responsive Binder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the SAC Sub-Committee and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

A complete set of Bridding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-returnable fee in the amount of Pbp 10 000-00. In the form of cash. The Bildding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The Land Transports ion Office will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on July 14, 2006 at 2-00 P.M. at the JTO-Library East Avenue Quezon City

Bits and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before July 26, 2006 at 2:00 P.M. All bids must be accomparised by a Bid Security in any of the Jobowing James.

	Form of Security	Malmum Amount to % of Approved Budget for the Copyract to be Bid
1	Cash, certified check, cashier's check manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of creda	One Percent (1%)
2.	Bank Guarantee	One and a half Percent (1 1/2%)
3.	Surety Bond	Two and a half Percent (2 1/2%)
4	Foreign government guerantee	One hundred Percent (100%)

Bid opening shall be on July 26, 2005 at 2:00 P.M. at LTO-Library, East Avenue, Quezon City Bids will be oponed in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below

The Land Transportation Office reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to around the budding process, and to leged all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any leability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Land Transportation Office Ally Jimmy G Pesigan, Chairman, BAC Fast Avenue Quezon City

(02) 9219077 telefax Engi. Roberto S. Se - Chairman, BAC Sub-Committee Properly Section, LTO East Avenue, Quezon City (02) 9292015 Jainton

> (Sgd.) ATTY JIMMY G. PESIGAN RAC-Charman

(POI - July 5 & 13, 2005)

Gov't move seen protecting local chemical industry

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE and Industry yesterday said it was imposing a provisional safeguard duty on a key ingredient used in manufacturing detergents.

The move was prompted by its findings that the surge in imports of the main raw material used in manutacturing detergents had caused "senous mjury" to local manufacturers.

Trade Secretary Peter B. Pavila said an additional P14.15 would be charged for every kilogram of imported technical grade sodium tripolyphosphate or STPP-TG.

Favila said the measure was to be effective "200 days from the issuance of a resevant Customs Memorandum Order, which was published today.

The findings of DTI's investi- own public hearing and formal

gation showed that the surge in the importation of STPP-TG has caused a decime in the domestic industry's market share, production, capacity utilization, productryity, sales and profitability," he

Favila said the provisional safeguard measure would serve as a temporary relief to local firms that claimed they were suffering from the influx of imports.

"We have set it at a level which we believe would be sufficient to prevent the industry from sustaining further injury that would be difficult to repair unless a provisional measure is taken now,"

He added that the DTI would immediately forward the records of the case to the Tariff Commission, which would conduct its

Pavita said the DTI would decide whether to impose a final safeguard measure based on the Commission's findings.

This action signifies the government's commitment to extend the appropriate safety nets to prevent the demise of roca, industries facing intense competition from mcreased imports," he said

Also, Trade Undersecretary Zenasda C. Maglaya said there would be no shortage of the chemical in the market even with the provisional safeguard measure.

"Our studies have shown that the effect of the provisional measure on the cost of detergents would be neg gible and will not substantially affect prices of detergents," Maglaya said.

The domestic manufacturer has sufficient capacity to supply

the requirements of downstream industries, she added.

Last April, the labor sector unit of advocacy group Fair Trade Al-hance backed Chemphi, Albright and Wisson Corp.'s petition for a safeguard duty on STPP.

"(Imposing an additional duty) is just and fair, given the predatory behavior of the importers-exporters propised in the dumping of STPP from China into the domestic market and given the now comatose state of the domestic industry," the FTA Labor said.

The group said imported STPP now accounts for 60 percent of the market, with shipments shooting up 140 percent a year from 2000

"This STPP surge is truly sudden, massive and debilitating for the local producers," the group

Kraft to bring tariff dispute to Customs court

By Christine A. Gaylican

2 months

6 months

KRAFT POODS CORP. ONE OF the world's argest food and beverage companies, is exploring the possibility of bringing its tariff dispute with the Bureau of Customs before the World Customs Organization.

can earn more with

\$10,000 to \$50,000 to

3 38%

3.50%

3.50%

3 57%

3.63%

3 75%

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Review of the Polygons Report Instants supposition standard deposts sensing in and deposts PSBANG.

We are exploring other avenues with which to resolve the tariff issue," said Tod Gimbei, Kraft Foods Asia Pacific corporate and government affairs director. in an interview yesterday.

The France-based WCO is com-

posed of member countries of the World Trade Organization and is tasked to ensure the free movement of goods across countries by harmonizing customs practices.

Gimbel said it was looking at this option even if its local unit, Kraft Foods Philippines, had a. ready filed a petition with the Court of Tax Appeals.

The petition seeks to reverse the BoC order that said that imported pre-mix juices with a sugar content of more than 65 percent, such as Kraft's Tan and Rool. Aid, should be sevied a 38-percent duty

Kraft is currently paying just a 3-percent duty on its pre-mix juices, citing the common effective preferential tariff rate of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

"We would like to think that we were not targeted intentionally when the order was issued, because its primary intent at that time was to stop the prevalent smuggling of sugar. We however, seem to have been gotten caught in the net." Gimbel said.

We did not change our product, it always has been determined to have a sugar content of more than 65 percent, but that does not necessarily mean that

our products are all sugar. We incorporate or blend in other components to our products such as vitamins, flavorings and other fortifiers," he added

its case, the company would have to pass on the added cost to its consumers in the Philippines "increasing the tanif would be

G mbel said that if Kraft loses

very detrimental to our business and to consumers," said Gimbel.

He said the company had not received any notice from the BoC. which earlier said it would allow Kraft to continue paying the low 3-percent duty, on condition that it would post a bond equivalent to the 38-percent tax on its highsugar content beverages pending the resolution of the case by the

The BoC order was prompted by the .nca. sugar sector, which has been urging government to stop allowing Kraft Foods from importing premix juices at such

low tariffs "More than the industry, it is the national government that is placed at a gross disadvantage. Where revenue should be flowing in terms of rariff, it is being curtailed," said Jose Maria Zabaleta, executive director of the Philippine Sugar Millers Association.



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WHAT'S INSIDE M Long live the Queen! /02



'Bulanglang' finds its place in a museum /C4

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS & TUESDAY FITNESS . WEDNESDAY 2BU & THURSDAY FOOD FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

How to entertain the kids and what to feed them

I HAVE TWINS AND WE ARE CELEBRATING their first birthday. Do you have any ideas for entertainment that is out of the ordinary? I don't like magicians or bubble shows. Can you please recommend? And do you have corn dog, burger, pimiento, and other children's party recipes that I can try out, too? Hopefully easy recipes... I hardly cook and it would be safe to say that this is the first time I am venturing into it.

My son Diego just recently celebrated his second birthday and I had a puppet show for him. It was so much funt It's perfect for that age group. I chose Sesame Street, Barney and Nemo! It ran for about 15 minutes. The puppets were nice, clean, and not at all gusgusinlooking! The puppet stage and the sound system they set up were not bad at all! I think it was well worth itl Call Peps Avecilla at 8251170, 0917-8437377.

And since you are brave enough to try and cook for your party, here are some of my most simple children's party recipes. Happy birthday to your twins. And good luck on your first real attempt at cooking.

Delicious Corn Dog

- 1 c com meal
- 2 c all-purpose flour
- % c sugar
- 3 eggs
- 2 tsp baking powder 1 ¼ c fresh milk
- Combine ingredients in a bowl. Mix well. Dip skewered hordogs on batter and deep fry in

Mini Pork Barbecue

- 1/2 kg pork, sliced thin
- 1/2 c condensed milk 2 thep sugar
- 2 rbsp garlic paste
- 3 thsp soy sauce 2 thsp hoisin sauce
- Combine ingredients and marinate. Skewer meat pieces and grill.

Burgers

- Ground beef- 1/4 kg lean mest, 1/4 kg beef fat 2 tsp Worcestershire sauce
- 14 c grated onion
- 2 tsp garlic powder
- 2 tsp onion powder 2 tbsp cream

- Combine ingredients and form into patties.

Cheese Pirniento Sandwich Filling

- 2 c grated cheddar cheese
- 1/2 croasted bell pepper, peeled and chopped 1/2 c cream cheese
- V4 c condensed milk
- 2 thsp sugar Salt and pepper to taste
- Mix all the ingredients until well combined.

Chicken Sandwich Filling 2 c chicken breast, boiled and flaked

- 1 c mayonnaise
- 1/4 c apples, chopped, squeezed with lemon
- 1/4 c celery, chopped
- salt, pepper, sugar to taste

I know that a lot of people dislike cliantro but I love it. Do you have recipes for cilantro, other than using it just for garnish? Preferably seafood.

Sure do, Mrs. Reyest Remember, cilantro is wansuy and coriander. Not kinchay!

Cilantro Shrimp

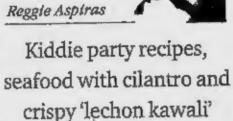
- 1/3 colive oil
- 1/4 c butter 14 e garlic
- 1/4 kg tomatoes, chopped
- I thai chili or labuyo, to taste
- 14 c white wine, stock or water 1 kg shrimps, peeled, de-veined, talls left in-
- 2 c cilantro 1 thap honey
- Heat oil and butter. Sauté garlic and tomatoes. Cook tomatoes until they are soft. Add chilies and wine and let simmer for three more minutes. Add shrimps. Add rest of the ingredients. Season to taste.

Oven-baked Guinataang Lapu-Lapu

- 1 whole lapu-lapu, approximately 2 kilos,
- cleaned and scored 4 tsp lime or kalamansi juice
- 2 thsp olive of
- Combine kalamansi juice and vegetable oil. Pour over lapu-lapu. Put fish on baking dish. Cover with foil, Bake in pre-heated 350°P oven for 30-40 minutes.
- Sauce: 1/4 c vegetable oil

KITCHEN RESCUE





from Reggie's kitchen

- 2 c finely chopped onion
- 'A c chopped cilantro
- 2 tsp minced garlic 2 tsp minced ginger
- Chili, thai or labuye, to taste, sliced
- 1 c chopped fresh romatoes
- 1 tsp turmeric
- 1 c coconut milk, second extraction 1 c coconut milk, first extraction
- 3 tsp fish sauce
- 3 tsp sugar
- Heat oil and sauté onions until translucent. Add clientro, garlic, onions, ginger, chilies, fresh tomatoes, turmeric and second extraction of coconur milk.

Simmer for 5 minutes or until tomatoes are soft, Add first extraction of coconut milk. Bring

Season to taste with fish sauce and sugar.

Pour over baked fish. Serve.

What is the trick to making lection kawali crispy? Can I have a recipe? Mine comes out SORRY ANNA PELEA

- 1 kg liempo, whole
- 2 tsp salt
- 1 tsp pepper

Boil llempo in enough water, add salt and pepper and cook the meat until fork tender. Once tender, leave the liempo in its stock.

Deep-fry in hot oll. Make sure oil is hot before putting your liempo. Perfect temperature for oil is 350°F so it browns the meat exterior

If you are not frying immediately, keep the liempo in the freezer submerged in stock. Before frying, thaw and bring the pork to one boil before deep frying. The fact that it is sub-merged in stock makes the pork blister when fried and when it blisters, it guarantees a crisp kawali. So you must not dry the liempo out. From the stock, the wet liempo goes straight to the frying pan filled with hot oil to deep fry.

Once the popping stops, the kawali is ready. Two weeks ago I wrote about Fish and Co.

and completely forgot to give their relephone number and where it's located. My apologies! It's called Alzheimer's!

For all those who e-mailed, here it is: Shangri-La Edsa Plaza Mall, tel. 9102140; and Greenbelt 3, 7297431. By the way, if you have not tried their cold

shrimp and pasta salad, that's yummy, tool

E-mail the author at raspiras@inquirer:com.ph



PUPPET SHOW not just for kids—the adults enjoyed it, too!



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JULIUS gourmet hotdog



PECAN Mudslide



By Vangie Baga-Reyes

EMEMBER THE ICE CREAM blended with generous portions of large chunks of Oreo cookies and M&M's candies?

The ice cream was poured into a cup and served upside down to show how thick and creamy it was, and indeed not a single drop would fall to the floor.

Blizzard, as it was called, is back!

Dairy Queen (DQ), maker of the popular Blizzard, has been back in the Philippines for four months now under a new franchisee, the Araneta Group of Companies' food division, Philippine Pizza Inc. International Dairy Queen, Inc. (IDQ) awarded the franchise to the Aranetas after years of negotiations.

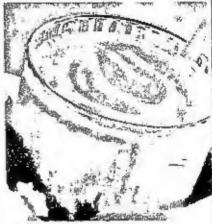
"It's the best and the biggest ice cream chain in the world. So, why should we not get it?" said Jorge Araneta, chair of the Araneta Group. "We knew people were happy with DQ products...we are excited to bring it back to those who still crave its goodness.

DO, which was out of the local ice cream

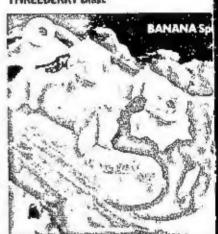




JUSTIN Holtkamp (right), director of International marketing of American Dairy Queen Corp., and Tony Tian, DQ's Asia. marketing manager



THREEBERRY Blast



Taxi meter should be in plain view

By Linda B. Bolido

NSTALLING TAXI METERS CA-PABLE of issuing receipts is welcome news but something more basic should be done first. Meters should be installed in spots where passengers can easily read them-on the dashboard instead of being buried underfoot, almost lit-

All over the world, meters are placed at eye level of passengers but here they are usually installed behind gearshifts. You have to be some kind of contor-

tionist to read the fare. The location of THE CONSUMER the meter seems to turn some drivers into magicians.

I have been in cabs where meters seem to be connected to the gearshift. Every time the driver shifts gears, the fare goes up (a taxi driver told me, though digital meters were supposed to be tamper-proof, ingenious Filipinos had managed to find ways to "improve" their running speed).

Sometimes, the driver turns off the meter before you can read the fare. You are left with no choice but to accept the driver's statement of how much you are supposed to pay, unless you have a good idea of what the fare should

I don't know about other people but I like to keep track of the amount registered in the meter so I can tell if it is running fast (I usu-

ally get off if I find that the meter is many households, everyone is off trying to set a new speed record). I also want to have the fare ready when the cab stops so I do not waste time searching for the right

Waiting for Godot

One of the most stressful experiences for me is waiting for delivery of items I purchased or for technicians to service malfunctioning appliances.

Despite assurances they would arrive within a certain time peri-

od, they invariably show up much lat-

The other day, after waiting for more than a week

for a new bed frame, the store finally called up to say I should expect it the morning of the following day. I called up the next day to confirm and was told to expect It that morning.

By 1 p.m. the item had not arrived, I was told to expect it before 5 p.m. I don't know what time zone they are in but 5 p.m. is way past morning, even by Filipino

I am willing to accept a promise as vague as morning or even stretch morning to 1 p.m. But to be told to expect delivery in the morning and then be made to wait until 5 p.m. is definitely unaccept-

What many establishments do not seem to understand is that, in

somewhere-school, office, marmeetings, ket, church, club erc .- every day that delivery peopie cannot just show up any time they want to and expect somebody

to be waiting for them. In many instances, waiting for delivery involves some inconveniences schedules have to be rearranged, appointments canceled.

Thus, it should be no surprise if, like me, people get so irritated when delivery people fail to show up when expected.

Advice

Regular reader Kenneth Hartigan-Go advises motorists to check the time stamped on tickets issued by pay parking places. He said, in one such place, they arrived after 12 noon but he found out later that their parking ticket was stamped 11 a.m. They had to pay extra for exceeding the minimum time of three hours. Go admitted he was at fault for not reading the ricket. His advice is to check the parking ticket before leaving the car in the garage.

(Our regular columnist, Marietta K Giron, Is indisposed. Please send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Mascardo and Yague Stx., Makati City; PO Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati; or e-mail lbolido@inquirer.com.ph

CLASSES

Start your day with dimsum

LUK YUEN NOODLE HOUSE, WHICH IS celebrating its 25th year this month, new serves Chinese dim sum breakfast 8:30-11 a.m. every day only at Luk Yuen Alabang Town Center, Paseo de Magallanes and Cash & Carry Makati. For only P140, you can have a dim sum platter of chicken siopao, pork siomai, raddish cake and sesame ball; a choice of halo-halo congee, Cantonese noodles or wanton noodle soup; and hot or iced tea. Other Luk Yuen branches are at the Greenhills Shopping Center, SM Megamail Bidg. B Basement and Glorietta 2, Ayala Center branches.

HERITAGE Hotel's Restaurant Riviera presents "Oli



WARM UP for the rainy days with the French Bairer's new Bacon Potato Soup, which is made with real potatoes and bacon bits, and served in a bread bowl. You may follow it up with the Spinach Fettuccini Carbonara, made from fresh spinach. The French Baker has over 30 branches in and around Metro Manila, including Pampanga, Dasmariñas, Metro Cebu, the new SM Clark and SM Mall of Asia.

American Fare," buffet lunch or dinner at P950+ per person. Dishes Include Oven-baked Monterey Jack Chicken, Black Pepper Lamb, Rib Eye with Herb Paste, Rib finger with BBQ Sauce, Glazed Pork Lec with fruit compote and Honey Pork Tenderloin with Jack Daniel Sauce. Call 8548888.

KIMPURA offers its sushi sashimi selections at a 20 percent discount July 14-31. Choices are sashimi and sushi combinations, sashimi, nigiri sushi, maki mono, and temaki. Kimpura has been serving fine authentic Japanese dishes for over 35 years. Open dally for lunch and dinner, the restaurant has two outlets at 2/L, Gioriette 2, Ayala Center, Makati (tel. 8932307, 8924456), and Greenhills Shopping Center, San Juan (7218816, DININ

INTERCONTENENTAL Manila pre-

sents Spanish food festival, "Flavors of Barcelona July 19-31. Diners will have the chance to win round trip lickets for two to Barcelona, courtesy of Singapora Airlines or a Mediterranean cruise for two from Princess Cruises. Meanwhile, Gambrinus now servecontinental breakfast, 7-11:30 a.m., for P560+ per person. Executive chaf Patrick Fournes presents a la carte Magnificent 8 Gourmet sandwiches consisting of Chicken Liver Pate, Chili Tuna and Melted Gruyere Cheese, Tomato and Buffalo Mozzarella, Smokeo Chicken Breast, Chicken BBQ, Salmon Riflette, Bert Burger and Club Sandwich, Call 6159711.

SOMETHIN' Fishy presents new Japanese bento box at P275. Choices include Sukiyaki, Ebi Tempura Salmon Teppan, Beef Terlyaki, Tonkatsu, Tenderloin Steak, Yakitori and Kani Bacon bento boxes. Also available are Japanese Hunger Buster Platters at P150. The ongoing Swordlish Festival offers Sizzling. or Grilled Swordfish Steak, Swordfish Steak in Burn & Bean Sauce, Fried Swordfish with Somethin' Fishe Sauce and Swordfish Skewers at half off their requiat prices. Located at Units 82 and 83, Eastwood City walk, DC, Call 4212121.

DUSIT Hotel Kikko's Fiesta San Miguel present "Plnoy Hot Pot." The Seafood Hot Pot costs P7504

Cooking demo in CDO

MOBILE KUSINA AT THE MALL WILL PREsent "Learn, Cook and Earn," a free cooking demonstration on July 29, 1-4 p.m., at the Activity Center of SM Cagayan de Oro City. Chef Candy Lu of Candy's Café will share recipes for caterers or food klosk operators. The session will also cover the basics of food costing and others.

Exchange three empty wrappers of Magno-Ila, Monterey and Purefoods Hormal for an admission ticket at the venue.

Mobile Kustna at the Mall is sponsored by Monterey, Darl Creme Classic, Magnolia Quickmelt Chaese, Purefoods Chunkee Corned Beel, Magnolla Chicken, Magnolla Nutri Oil and Purefoods Supremo Vinegar. Co-sponsors are SM Supermalls, Glad Wraps, GE Appliances, Ariston and Sunnex Cookware. My Great Food Club members are encouraged to attend.

Call 6322000, 6719876 locals 2771, 402,

404 and 405 or log on to www.mygreat-

Seminars on cooking, food serving Maya Kitchen will conduct the Wattering and Bartending seminar on July 15, 22 and 29, 2-8 g.m. The course covers waltering etiquette, table setup, bussing

out, napkin folding and skirting; classification of wine and spirits, types of glasses, mixing and serving of drinks, with special pulutan recipes as a bonus.

Maya will also conduct the four-day "Basic Culinary," July 18-21, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., that will cover, among other things, proper hygiene, santiation and salety; and nutrition and nutritional cooking.

"Meringue Delights," to be conducted July 22, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., will cover Sansrival, Sylvannas, Brazo de Mercedes, etc.

"Fundamentals of Bakery Production" will be offered on July 25-28, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. It offers, among others, hands-on introduction on bakeshop specialties.

"Advanced Cooking" will be held July 25-28, 2-6 p.m. It will cover advanced techniques for food safety, etc.

"Free Balding Demo" will be held July 2B, 4-5 p.m. It will include baiding business, product application with Maya Mixes, etc. Pre-reg-Istration is required. Present three empty packages of any Maya Hotcake or Hot-

"Snack Meals" will be tackled July 29,

9 a.m.-1 p.m. Visit the Maya Kitchen (Tuesday-Saturday), 8/F, Liberty Building, A. Arnalz Avenue (formerly Pasay Road), Makati City, or call 8921185 or 8925011 local 108. E-mail mkitchen@ultimate.lnfo.com.ph.

Registration ongoing for seminar

Registration for ProActive Center's "Managing a Restaurant/Canteen Seminar-Workshop" and the "Managing a Catering Business Workshop" is ongoing

Call 6673369 or 0915-4315875. Seminar fee is inclusive of manual and handouts, workshop materials, and certificate of com-

Workshops will cover planning the concept, menu, location, layout and equipment; hygiene and sanitation; human resource development; costing, pricing and cost control among others.

Garlic dishes and kebabs

The Reggie Aspiras School of Culinary Arts will conduct the following classes:

July 14—Gartic '06 (all new): Homemade Cheese and Garlic Bread, Roasted Garlic

Soup, Mixed Greens and Cold Cut Salad with Fried Caesar Dressing, Roasted Gartle and Lobster Pasta, Braised Lamb in Garile, Fish in Garile Tomato Sauce, Sun-dried Tomato and Garlic Roast Chicken

July 15-Wonderful Chicken Recipes and new): Com Bread Chicken, Citrus Infuser fea Smoked Hainanese Style Chicken with Lerryin Grass Rice, Clay Pol Chicken, Grand Marrier Lacquered Chicken, Curry Roast; side deduc-

July 17-Kebabs '06 (all new): Kebalis of Beef Wrapped in Angus Fat, Best Ever Lamb Shish Kebab, Butter Chicken Kebabs, Moont Vepetable Kebabs, Homemade Pita, sala-1 rice and sauces

July 19-Havana (all new): Authentic Ar roz a la Cubana, Prawns Cubana in Rum and Sugar Glaze, Chicken with Bananas (Poherman Platanos), Rabo Encendido (Ox Tali Ste ...

Beans and Rice, Cuban-style Flan Call 9289296, 9273008, 6335162.

TYLE

Jorge Araneta says they just had to get the best and the biggest ice cream chain in the world



pineapple and chocolate toppings, with whipped cream, arranged between two pieces of sweet banana; Pecan Mudshide, a layered concoction of thick DQ soft-serve, sweet caramel, rich fudge and crunchy pecans; and Mootate, a rich coffee and crushed ice blended with thick and creamy DQ soft-serve ice cream.

"Most ice-blended coffee beverages are just ice and coffee mixed together," said Holdkamp. "Our Moolate is a mix of ice, coffee and ice cream so it (is a) smoother, delicious cold coffee

The health conscious may be happy to know DO ice cream is actually low in fat. It is 94-percent fat-free. "If you (only) have an ice cream, it's (either) fat-free or low-fat, it's the flavoring and other add-ons that increase the calories," Holtkamp said.

DO ice creams are made fresh every day. A machine behind the counter constantly churns our ice cream. At the moment, milk and cream come in from Thailand.

But Holtkamp said, "As we add locations, we will be sourcing our dainy products in the Phillip-

pines. One of our goals is to support the Philippine economy. So far, some fruits are sourced locally, such as bananas and oranges."

Available Orange Julius products include Julius Originals, classic smoothies blended and made with real fruits to create a smooth, rich and creamy drink.

The Orange Julius chain, maker of popular fruit drinks for nearly 80 years, was bought by IDQ in 1987. After the purchase, IDQ included Orange Julius drinks in many Dairy Queen

scene for two years, is now at the Food Express, 3/L, Gateway Mall. It has a bigger customer counter and a wider selection of ice creams. DQ also brought in Orange Julius for its fruit

smoothies and gourmet hotdog products. Justin Holtkamp, director of international marketing of American Dairy Queen Corpora-tion, said: "DQ operates in 22 countries, but Asia-Pacific, led by Thailand with over 180 stores, is our biggest market. China comes next with 65 stores. Hopefully, the Philippines will

join the (leaders)." Satisfying treats

DO has been making cold treats since 1940s in Kankakee, Illinois.

The Blizzard-ice cream with premium cookies and candy bits blended together-has become the top seller since it was put on the menu in 1985. The most popular Blizzard flavors include Oreo Cookies, chocolate-chip cookie dough, M&M's, Reese's Peanut Butter Cup and Sutterfinger.

Ice cream on cone is plain ice cream. Sundae has chocolate or strawberry syrup on top. Blizzard is ice cream and cookies mixed all the way through and that's what makes it unique. It is served upside down to show how thick our ice cream is. And we add very large cookie and fruit pieces so with every bite you get the real flavor," Holdkamp said.

DQ's Blizzard has hundreds of different flayors globally. But, for the local market, DQ offers only a dozen flavor initially.

We put the ones that we think are the best and especially formulated for the local taste. Eventually, we will bring in new and exotic flavors like cheesecake Blizzard, different chocolate chips, fruit toppings, branded cookies and candies. Some will stay on the menu, some (will be available) for only a limited time," Holtkamp

Aside from Blizzard, Dairy Queen also offers ice cream in walfile cones and bowls, lattes, Dilly Bars (ice cream on stick) and sundaes. Also on the menu are Peanut Buster Parfait, a combination of creamy smooth DQ soft-serve ice cream with peanuts and layered hot fudge; Banana Split, soft-serve covered in strawberry,

and congee

per person and the Meat Hot Pot, P650+ per person. Enjoy unlimited servings of fresh brewed beer 5:30-9 p.m. for only P350 net per person. Benkay's chef, Yoshlaki Tomiyama, presents rice toppings for the month of July, ranging from meat to seafood items. Each order is served with an appetizer, pickies, miso soup and dessert. Benjarong's chef Tun offers five a la carte items with authentic Thai salad creations until July 23. Call 8673333.

MANDARIN Oriental's Tin Hau introduces new a la carte and set menus-from Chinese roasts, dried seafood varieties and abalone, live and fresh seafood. meat poultry, noodles and rice to vegetarian dishes. A

la carte dishes and set menus are available daily for lunch, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; dinner, 6:39-10:30 p.m. Paseo Uno features special lunch at P980+ (adult), P510+ (kids 5-12 years old), Monday-Saturday, until Aug. 31. Diners can enjoy in-

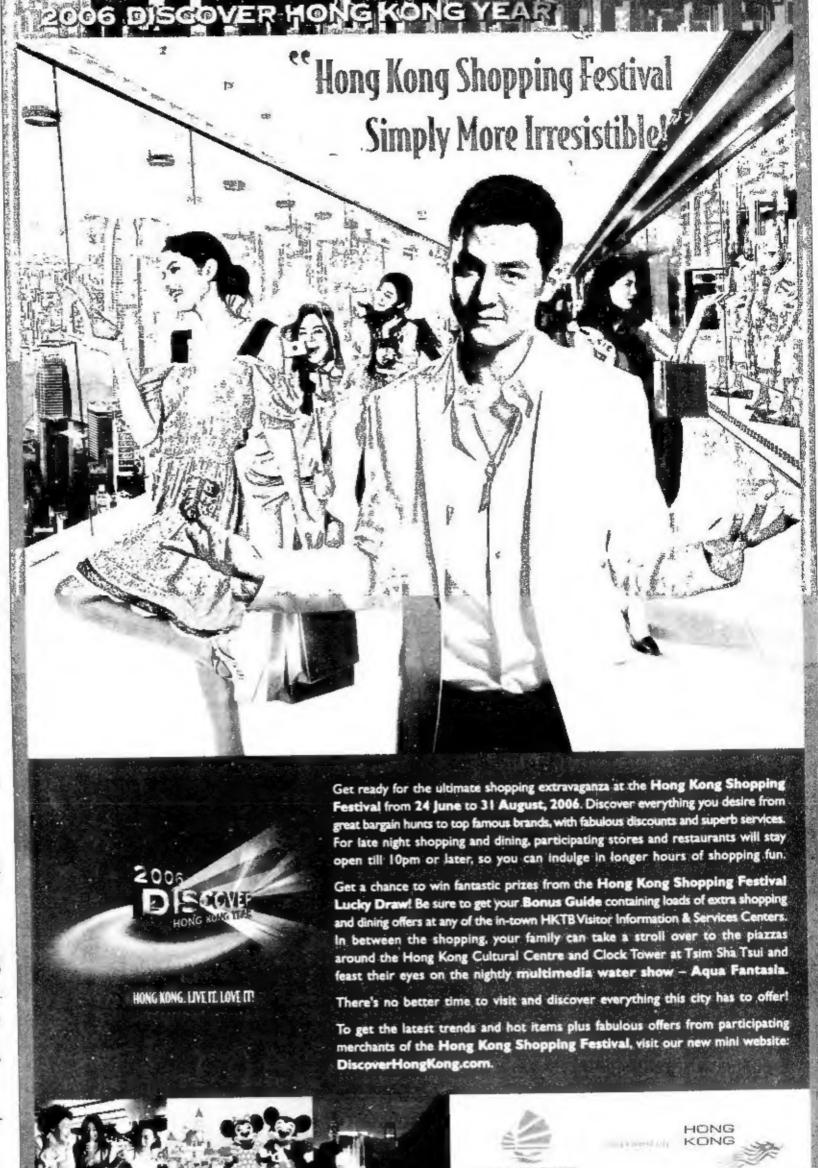
ternational and Asian specialties. Seafood specialties are available every Friday. Paseo Uno is open 5-10:30 a.m. for breaklast; 12-2:30 p.m. for lunch; 3-4 p.m. for snack; and 6 p.m.-12 mn for dinner. Call 7508888.

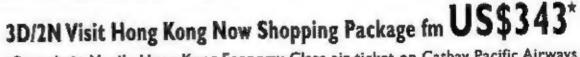
THE RICHMONDE Grill features a caravan of Penang dishes until July 23. The Penang Food Caravan is priced at PB00 net per person, inclusive of coffee or tea. Lunch buffet is served every Sunday until Friday, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Call 5387777 loc. 3409.

MANILA Pavillon's Seasons serves the freshest suchi and maki rolls. Smorgasbord is priced at P900+ per person. Lunch buffet is from \$1:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Dinner, 6:30 -10:30 p.m. Call 5261212 loc.

THE BELLEVUE Hotel has opened a new Pastry Corner which features coffee concections, homemade çakes, breads and ube ensaymadas. Discounts on selected pastries and breads are available daily. Call

HYATT Regency Manila's Café Al Fresco features "Paeta and Pizza Parade" until July 22. The festival features an array of real Italian pizza. Call 8078019.







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Decongest. Decolgen: [3]

Phenylproprinolamina HCI Paracetarno!

Depoigen' ruse

Na Orace Decolgan

Il symptoma peralet, consult your doctor,

A way with words

COUNTRY

COOKING

THE MUSEO PUNTONG BATANGAN, the Batangas museum in the capital city, will be inaugurated mid-July but we recently had a chance to preview it.

We had to don masks so we would not inhale fumes from paint and dust from the carpentry work. We were asked to imagine huge photos that had not been put up and recorded voices not yet in place.

Anyone who has heard a Batanguefio speak will know what the word punto means-the intonation, as well as the

Marian Pastor Roces, the curator and writer, explained that the focus of the museo was oral language. Her last work was for the Philippine Pavilion of the World Expo 2005 in Japan where she, together with architect Ed Calma, was awarded the Gold Prize for the Best Designed Pavilion, besting more than 100

Her experience includes managing several exhibits. some for the National Museum, the Rizal Shrine, the Negros Museum. And now, for her home province, she has conceptualized a museum that will be the first of its kind.

History in 14 words

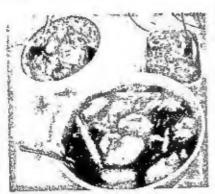
Pourteen words in Batangas Tagalog were selected to show the province's history Micky Fentx and culture. Those of us on that early tour expected "ala ey" and "gal" to be among those but the

familiar expressions were not. Still, the words could be heard in the audio-visual room, an area called Punto where one could hear the Batangueño way of speaking.

The chosen words are displayed in huge letters over specific sections. What some represented were easy to guess. Simba is for religious rites. Awit is for the songs.

Others had to be explained. Baon should have the accent on the last syllable because it indicates something buried. A panoramic photograph of a field with trees, an old upturned banca and an overgrowth of plants look fascinating until you learn it's the site of a mass burial of both cholera victims generations ago and those killed during the Filipino-American war in the early 1900s.

Kalumpang is not only the name of the river one crosses to go in or out of the city but is also a tree that figured in fertility



BULANGLANG accompanied by Batangas adobo and guinotomy hito

rites of the ancient people of Batangas. The tree is now gone in Batangas, except for the preserved trunk in the museum.

Batangas, by the way, gets its name from another tree, the battang.

Apparently Batangas was a forested area before the population and progress boom.

Because food is part of culture, there is the word bulanglang to indicate the cooking exhibit area.

Bulanglang is a simple dish of several vegetables boiled together in rice washing and flavored subtly with salt, ginger and sometimes with columnsi juice. A slightly sweet taste is an indication that the vegeta-

bles are fresh, usually taken from a backyard plot. Sometimes, the bulanglang can comprise of only one vegetable like the kibal, short string beans that have been likened to the French haricat vert (green

Different names

Bulanglang is called by different names in other places. It's dinendeng in the Ilocos, laswa in Negros and Iloilo, and lawor-lawor in Leyte. The boiled vegetable dish is served with some broth but is not soup.

The bulangiang was what we had for lunch, cut patola pieces floating on top. I must confess that the invitation to the museum was not as attractive as the promise of eating at the ancestral home of the Pastors, the huge clan to which Marian belongs.

We waited for lunch at the sala. We thought the old chairs were ergonomically designed as they were so comfort-



able. While we discussed Batangas her- tas. That would be mayonnaise on top itage, as well as the bullet meant for the visiting Governor General William Howard Taft that was still lodged in one of the ancestral house's jambs, we were entertained with an impromptu piano concerto by Antonio Pastor.

A peek into the outdoor kitchen let us witness the cooks' preparation of the kilawing baboy. Boiled pork was cut into small pieces and flavored with a vinegar mixture. The difference is that pork and sometimes cow brain are added, all chopped up and mixed in. That makes for a richer kilawing baboy, as we found out when we were called to the table.

The menu also included Batangas adobo, pork cooked in the usual way but colored orange with achuere (annatto). Hito (catfish) was cooked in coconut milk. And the pancit had chopped kamias instead of calamansi to provide the sour

Fiesta colors

The fish, a talakitok, was steamed and then dressed up the way it's done in fies-

and then red and green bell pepper, and hard-boiled egg, yolks and whites separated, all chopped and arranged in bands

In "The Alice B. Tokias Cookbook," the author wrote about decorating the fish that way for Pablo Picasso, only using mayonnaise made red with tomato paste, eggs in the same way, truffles and chopped herbs. When the Spanish artist saw the fish done so, he said it should have been for Henri Matisse, the French artist known for his use of colors.

Our dessert was sobo banana sweetened with sugar and cocount milk. The resulting sauce was very much like caramel and perfect with the vanilla ice cream that was served with the fruit.

And so fortified, we went to visit the museum. Marian said to return for the formal opening. And, as if she read our mind, she said she would be serving food again on that day.

E-mail author at pinoyfood04@ yahoo.com.

Chinese cuisine and beyond

STOPAO, SWEET AND SOUR PORK, fried rice-we've all enjoyed these Chinese favorites, whether at a dimsum counter or lauriat-style at a grand old Chinese restaurant. These days, many Chinese restaurants are going beyond the tried and tested to introduce innovative concepts in Chinese dining. But it all started in Binondo where the Ilang-Ilang Restaurant first opened almost 100 years ago under the same ownership.

Pind out more about Chinese food-from recipes to kitchen equipment-from the latest issue of F&B World Magazine now available in newsstands around the country

F&B World is the country's only trade magazine for the foodservice industry, read by F&B professionals, entrepreneurs and aspiring culinary students. In this latest issue, learn about food-presentation trends, valuable tips in customer service, food safety in the kitchen and check out the latest software to manage your operations.

Inside F&B World is Baking Press Magazine, the country's first and only publication dedicated to baking, pastry and confectionary arts. The latest issue is all about bread, from pugon-style pan de sol at Pan de Manila to European specialty breads at The French Baker Regular contributors Heny Sison, Johnhu Koa of The French Baker, Penk Ching, chef Dennis Hipolito and chef Ernie Babaran share their considerable expertise in a variety of topics.

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